

AACN Thought Leaders Assembly Summary
Emerging Trends in Health Care and Technology
Influencing Higher Education
July 16, 2016 ~ San Francisco, CA

The AACN Thought Leaders Assembly provides a forum for generative thinking by the Board of Directors, invited guests, member deans, and senior staff on emerging trends and issues impacting health, health care, and higher education. This dialogue is designed to stimulate fresh thinking and better position AACN to serve as a catalyst for innovation in academic nursing. The thought leaders selected to present to the Board are carefully chosen for their unique vision and perspectives, which promise to contribute meaningfully to the discussion of opportunities and challenges ahead.

AACN hosted its inaugural Thought Leaders Assembly in July 2016 in conjunction with the Summer Seminar in San Francisco. The theme this year focused on future trends in higher education and technology's impact on health professional education. Presenters included:

- Dr. Sarah Farrell, Health Market Development Executive, Apple Education
- Dr. Jeffrey Gold, Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Richard McGravie, Vice President of Business Development, CastleBranch
- Kevin Souza, Associate Dean, UCSF School of Medicine

The following summary features key themes from the Thought Leaders Assembly by topic area as well as actions AACN may consider taking in response to the discussion and the Board's subsequent deliberation.

Theme #1: Trends in Health Care and Higher Education

- The demand for health care is rising as the population ages and incidence of chronic disease increases. Access to health care is being constrained by a maldistribution of resources by specialty, rural populations, and geographic needs.
- Though there is strong support for adapting health systems to meet the Triple Aim – improving health, enhancing the experience of health care, and lower healthcare costs – most acknowledge that we are not adequately meeting these goals.
- Healthcare providers are moving to harness Precision Medicine and personalized healthcare based on genome analysis as the future of healthcare delivery.
- Consumers are losing trust in healthcare providers who are seen as revenue driven vs. health outcome driven. Health care is not viewed as affordable, and providers are not seen as accountable.
- Consumers are increasingly using apps and websites to inform their healthcare decision-making.

- The value of higher education is being increasingly questioned by employers and prospective students. Is the education I'm receiving worth the debt I am accruing?
- Faculty often focus inward and are not looking at the larger healthcare and higher education landscape. More leadership development is needed to expand the faculty's world view.
- Dialogue and strategies are needed to begin "unfreezing" the issues that hold the profession back (i.e. barriers to scope of practice, lack of diversity and inclusion, regulation and licensure) and obstacles that constantly plague academic nursing (i.e. faculty shortage, insufficient clinical sites, budget cuts).
- Are we providing deans with enough resources and support to meet the mental health and wellness needs of students?
- The majority of new nurses are educated to practice in acute care environments. Do we need to rethink how we provide entry-level RN education? Do we need to rethink licensure?
- A divide still exists between academia and practice. What can AACN do to bridge this divide and facilitate synergy between education and practice?

Suggested Actions for AACN:

1. Move ahead with AACN's leadership development work as a means of strengthening faculty engagement in the broader healthcare arena. Identify and showcase best practices related to competency-based education and interprofessional engagement in our programming.
2. Promote the recommendations in the *New Era* report as a bridge between academia and practice. Continue joint AACN-AONE meetings. Explore a membership role for practice leaders in AACN through the work of the Governance Task Force.
3. Invite AACN task force and committee chairs to the next Thought Leaders Assembly to magnify the impact the conversation has on key stakeholders within the organization.

Theme #2: Educational Technology and Higher Education

- Technology is advancing rapidly and increasingly outstrips faculty capability, student ability, financial resources, and institutional infrastructure.
- Learning today has become more personalized and data driven. Students are comfortable using a variety of devices to take in information and engage in online dialogues (i.e. mobile phones, apps, simulation).
- Academia is moving to embrace competency-based education and lifelong learning. The credit hour is no longer the only way to gauge achievement. Nursing schools will miss an opportunity if they do not determine how to meet the continuous learning needs of graduates.
- One emerging trend in higher education is micro-credentialing , a non-traditional education path where students gain skill sets in a specific area and receive a credential. A micro-credential (or digital badge) can be used to document learning experiences and may be granted on completion of a MOOC or other training program.

- If nursing does not define what quality and competence looks like, the market will determine this for the profession. AACN must demonstrate moral courage by continuing to call for more highly educated nurses in the interest of patient safety.
- Some have suggested that educational technology can facilitate interprofessional education, yet few examples exist of how this is done well.
- Not all nursing schools can afford cutting edge technology creating tension between the haves and have nots.
- Are we adequately preparing faculty to leverage educational technology? This must be a priority if we are to meet the expectations of current and future students. Faculty who are technology adverse will soon become irrelevant.

Suggested Actions for AACN:

1. Continue to focus on faculty development with an emphasis on using educational technology and advancing interprofessional learning. Continue to share best practices and exemplars in our conference and webinar programming to illustrate the impact and efficacy of educational technology.
2. Explore new models of information gathering and content curation that build on what we are currently doing.
3. Identify AACN's role in micro-credentialing; determine if AACN should be in this business.