



Board Chair and President/CEO Report March 2016

This report updates members on initiatives and activities undertaken by the AACN Board of Directors, President and CEO Deborah “Deb” Trautman, and staff since the Fall Semiannual Meeting in October 2015.

MAJOR INITIATIVES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Results of the 2016 AACN Board and Nominating Committee Election

On February 5, AACN announced the results of the 2016 election to fill seats on the AACN Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. These winning candidates will assume office at the close of the Business Meeting on March 21, 2016. Congratulations go to:

- **Chair-Elect:** Ann Cary, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- **Secretary:** Judy Beal, Simmons College
- **Board Members-at-Large:** Anita Hufft, Texas Woman's University; Cynthia McCurren, Grand Valley State University; Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, Oklahoma Baptist University
- **Nominating Committee:** Vicki Keough, Loyola University Chicago; Julie Sanford, James Madison University

A Bold New Direction for AACN

Over the past year, AACN’s Board of Directors focused on contemplating the future of AACN, its mission and values, emerging opportunities and challenges, and the need to position the organization for long-term sustainability. Building on the recommendations of the Futures Task Force, the Board worked with an expert consultant to develop a strategic framework that will shape the organization’s priorities into the foreseeable future. AACN staff have played a critical role in advancing this work and helping to realize the Board’s vision and intent.

Among the important outcomes of this work, the organization’s vision, mission, and values have changed to reflect AACN’s wide reach and the impact the organization has inside and outside of nursing. Though AACN previously had vision statements for both the profession and for the organization, we are now united under one vision: **Nurses are leading efforts to transform health care and improve health.** AACN’s mission statement has been expanded to better reflect the full scope of the organization’s work and areas of influence. The new statement reads: **As the collective voice for academic nursing, AACN serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice.** Finally, AACN’s values have been distilled to include **leadership, innovation, collaboration, integrity, and agility.** The Board also has worked closely with the staff on developing strategic plan goals and objectives that will guide the organization’s work over the next three years and beyond.

AACN Board Endorses New Report on Advancing Healthcare Transformation

On March 1, the AACN Board of Directors endorsed a report titled *Advancing Healthcare Transformation: A New Era for Academic Nursing*, which addresses how schools of nursing can play a significant role in improving health and health care at the local, state, and national levels. In February 2015, AACN commissioned Manatt Health to conduct a comprehensive study on how to elevate nursing's role in academic health centers (AHCs), which includes recommendations that all nursing schools can use to move toward long-term success and sustainability. To commence this work, interviews were completed with a variety of stakeholders in AHC and non-AHC affiliated institutions to uncover the issues and the opportunities facing academic nursing. Findings from the interviews were used as discussion points for a national summit of AHC leaders convened by AACN and Manatt in Washington, DC in August 2015. Following the summit, two surveys were issued to better determine how nursing schools could make a greater contribution to the larger healthcare enterprise. Armed with a fresh understanding of today's landscape, the report identifies a path for achieving an enhanced partnership between academic nursing and academic health centers around the imperative to advance integrated systems of health care, achieve improved health outcomes, and foster new models for innovation. AACN is confident that lessons learned from this study will be important to the full universe of baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs, not just those located in AHCs. The final report is posted on the AACN website: www.aacn.nche.edu/manattreport.

Final Data Released from AACN's Fall 2015 Survey

The final results from AACN's fall 2015 annual survey show that enrollment in professional registered nursing programs continues to be robust. From 2014 to 2015, the greatest increases in enrollment were seen in Doctor of Nursing Practice (19.0%), RN to baccalaureate (6.2%), master's (5.7%), and entry-level baccalaureate programs (3.1%). Enrollment in PhD programs was down last year by 3.2% (or 168 students) due largely to a drop in enrollment reported by one large online program that is in process of phasing out. This program reported enrolling 455 students in 2014 and 190 students in 2015. The latest data also show that 62,361 qualified applications were turned away from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs last year, including 12,548 applications to graduate nursing programs. The primary barriers to accepting all qualified students continue to be a shortage of clinical placement sites, faculty, and classroom space. Final survey data is based on information reported from 851 of the 952 nursing schools in the U.S. (89.4% response rate) with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs. Copies of the 2015 survey results are being distributed for free to all schools that contributed data to this report.

AACN Takes Action to Enhance End-of-Life Nursing Care

AACN is supporting a new set of competencies and recommendations that will guide the education of future nurses on providing quality end-of-life care. Titled **Palliative CARES—Competencies and Recommendations for Educating Undergraduate Nursing Students**—the AACN Board of Directors voted to endorse this document at its January 2016 meeting. CARES is a timely update and revision of the 1998 Peaceful Death document published by AACN, which has served as the foundation for improving undergraduate end-of-life nursing education. With generous funding provided by the Cambia Health Foundation, the new CARES document was

developed by 25 nursing faculty and clinical leaders with expertise in palliative care. The document provides the historical perspective of palliative care nursing education, outlines the current status of educational needs in undergraduate nursing programs, and most importantly, identifies 17 palliative care competencies that student nurses should achieve before graduation. In addition, recommendations for incorporating the new palliative care competencies into nursing courses are embedded in the document, along with their alignment within the AACN *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice*. To download this document, see www.aacn.nche.edu/elnec/New-Palliative-Care-Competencies.pdf.

LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

AACN President/CEO Testifies Before Congress

On December 9, AACN President and CEO Deborah Trautman was invited to testify on behalf of academic nursing before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on legislation that would reauthorize Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. Dr. Trautman underscored the impact Title VIII has on sustaining the nursing workforce, including the supply of nurse faculty, researchers, and APRNs. In her testimony, she stated: "Healthcare delivery models are not static. Neither is nursing education. This legislation would modernize the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, thus creating alignment with transformational efforts underway in nursing and health care. With over three-million licensed providers, registered nurses are the largest healthcare workforce in America and essential members of the healthcare team. As we continue to ensure that all communities have access to care, it is essential that the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs be reauthorized. This will ensure a continued pipeline of support for the providers who spend the most time with patients— nurses."

AACN Partners with White House to Educate on Prescription Drug Abuse

In late October 2015, AACN joined the Obama Administration and more than 40 other healthcare provider groups to announce new efforts to address the prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic in the U.S. AACN is a committed partner in this work and will be launching a national nursing education initiative among members and supporting an important public awareness campaign. The severity of this crisis continues to rise, and AACN plans to take a leadership role for the academic nursing community. This work resulted from conversations between AACN's Deb Trautman and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Acting Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield regarding the President's effort to reduce the number of opioid and drug-related deaths and disorders. For more information, see www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/21/fact-sheet-obama-administration-announces-public-and-private-sector.

AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program Planned for August

AACN is proud to continue our partnership with the prestigious Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania to offer an executive leadership development program for seasoned nursing deans and directors. Offered at the Wharton School in Philadelphia on August 8-11, this four-day program will be taught by Wharton faculty, who will present relevant and timely content designed to advance chief academic administrators to a higher level of leadership. The

curriculum is tailored to enhancing the leadership capacity of nursing deans and honing the skills essential to moving forward strategically as an academic leader. Participants will leave equipped with an advanced set of negotiation, leadership, and influencing skills, and the confidence and ability to serve on or to lead high-powered boards. Interactions and collaboration within the cohort also will provide participants with a valuable and ongoing resource network. Applications are being accepted through May 13, 2016. For more details, see www.aacn.nche.edu/leading-initiatives/aacn-wharton-executive-leadership-program.

Leadership for Academic Nursing Program

Now in its 15th year, AACN's Leadership for Academic Nursing Program (LANP) has become the preferred professional development experience for faculty aspiring to leadership roles and for nursing schools looking to facilitate succession planning. Designed to prepare a more diverse, younger pool of leaders for nursing programs, this professional development program encompasses an assessment and evaluation of leadership skills, opportunities for strategic networking and case study development, consultation to achieve long-term goals, and identification of key partnerships. Applications for the next cohort of LANP Fellows, which typically numbers between 40-50 participants, are due April 1, 2016. The week-long immersion seminar that is foundational to the LANP experience will be held July 24-28 in Annapolis, MD. For more details, see www.aacn.nche.edu/faculty/leadership-for-academic-nursing.

Volunteers Needed for New Dean Mentoring Program

AACN's New Dean Mentoring Program matches an experienced dean with a colleague who is new to the dean/director role. Mentees determine individual areas of concern and establish the method and frequency of communication with their mentors. Deans/directors are matched according to their responses to a questionnaire (e.g., program type, size, and location).

AACN is seeking volunteers to serve as mentors. Interested applicants can learn more at www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/new-dean-mentoring-program and fill out an application by logging on to My AACN at www.aacn.nche.edu/ams/login. For more information, contact Administrative Coordinator Gene Throwe at gthrowe@aacn.nche.edu.

Representation by AACN Leaders and Members at Key Meetings and Events

AACN's Board Chair, Board members, President/CEO, and deans represent the association and its membership at a number of high profile meetings and events throughout the year. Below is a sampling of meetings and events attended by AACN's leaders since October 2015:

- On November 5, President and CEO Deborah Trautman was invited to address the New York Council of Nursing Deans in Albany, NY. Her remarks focused on AACN's priorities, the work of the Futures Task Force, and AACN's strategic planning work.
- On November 10, Deb Trautman presented remarks at the NLN-Independence Blue Cross/Blue Shield Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Her comments focused on AACN's leadership development programs and the association's commitment to advancing diversity and cultural competency in nursing leadership.

- On November 12-13, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) invited Deb Trautman to attend a meeting in Princeton, NJ to discuss the Foundation's focus on building a Culture of Health and future funding priorities.
- On November 19, Deb Trautman attended the annual American Nurses Association's Organizational Affiliates Meeting in Palm Springs, CA. Immediately following the ANA meeting, Dr. Trautman attended the annual Nursing Organization's Alliance Meeting where the conversation centered on the Nurse in Washington Internship program and the Nursing Alliance Leadership Academy.
- On November 30-December 1, Chair-Elect Julie Sebastian presented remarks at the APRN LACE Meeting held at ANA headquarters in Silver Spring, MD.
- On December 9-10, The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action held a national conference in Washington, DC, titled *Leading Change & Building Healthier Communities*, to celebrate five years of advancing health through nursing. Board Chair Eileen Breslin, Board Member Ann Cary, President/CEO Deb Trautman and several other AACN staff members attended this event.
- On January 28, Deb Trautman and Kathy McGuinn, AACN's Director of Special Projects, attended a meeting in Chicago with our partners in the UHC-AACN nurse residency program. Discussion focused on the state of UHC's merger (the company is now called Vizient), the Manatt report, and AACN's interprofessional collaborations.
- On February 6, Phil Greiner, Director of the San Diego State University School of Nursing and member of the Futures Task Force, represented AACN at the 4th California Doctoral Nursing Conference in Costa Mesa, CA. Dr. Greiner gave a keynote address on the final report of the Futures Task Force and the implications for doctoral education.
- On March 2, Deb Trautman and Lauren Inouye, AACN's Associate Director of Government Affairs, attended a Women's History Month event in the U.S. Capitol, which was hosted by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). This bipartisan event was attended by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden.
- On March 3-4, Board Chair Eileen Breslin, President/CEO Deb Trautman, and AACN Director of Research and Data Services Di Fang attended the National Nursing Research Roundtable at NIH in Bethesda, MD.
- On March 10, Deb Trautman presented as part of a panel on policy formation "On the Hill" during RWJF's Nurse Faculty Scholars leadership program in Washington, DC.

FACULTY AND STUDENT RESOURCES

Convening Health Policy Faculty

As part of our work to expand health policy engagement, AACN convened an Invitational Policy Faculty Symposium in Washington, DC on December 3-4. Fifty-seven of the nation's nursing faculty with public policy expertise attended this event and discussed the current state and preferred future for health policy education in schools of nursing. This event helped to inform AACN's understanding of how faculty currently teach health policy to nursing students, which is necessary to keep pace with recent and future transformations in health care and health policy. These discussions focused on how content is currently being delivered on policy advocacy, analysis, and research at various program levels, as well as current practices and activities that work well and resonate with students. Additionally, attendees discussed how academic nursing's

infrastructure can help create the policy leaders needed to advocate for change. Takeaways from this meeting were shared with AACN's new Health Policy Advisory Council.

Membership in the GNSA Remains Strong

The Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA) provides high-value programs, resources, and services to meet the professional development needs of students in master's and doctoral programs at AACN member schools. Currently, more than 11,000 students are enrolled in the GNSA and actively pursue the many leadership opportunities open to them. For example, the Leadership Council, which is composed of 10 students, is helping to set priorities for the GNSA and provide advice regarding future services and programming. Other leadership opportunities with the academy include the role of GNSA Liaison, a student volunteer who serves as the lead information contact at each school of nursing, and the GNSA Policy Committee, an elected body of students with an interest in sharpening health policy skills. Membership in the GNSA is free to all graduate nursing students enrolled in AACN member schools. To find out more about the GNSA, see www.aacn.nche.edu/students/gnsa.

Seventh Annual AACN Student Policy Summit

Interest in health policy by nursing students remains strong as evidenced by the full registration for the 2016 Student Policy Summit (SPS), which is being held March 20-22 in Washington, DC. The SPS brings together 200 undergraduate and graduate nursing students from around the nation to participate in a three-day conference exploring advocacy and nursing's role in the policy process. The Summit empowers attendees with the political knowledge and savvy necessary to be successful advocates for nursing and to understand how policy influences their careers. Summit attendees are provided a rich experience that includes discussions with leadership from federal agencies, as well as the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and their staff to discuss health policy issues.

Jonas Center and AACN Expand Support for Doctoral Students

Since 2012, AACN has partnered with the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare to enhance the nation's supply of doctorally prepared nurses available to serve in faculty and clinical roles. In January 2016, the Jonas Center identified the number and type of Scholars to be awarded this year, including: 240 Jonas Nurse Leader PhD Scholars, 74 Jonas Nurse Leader DNP Scholars, 66 Jonas Veterans Healthcare PhD Scholars, 60 Jonas Veterans Healthcare DNP Scholars, 6 Donald Jonas PhD Legacy Scholars, and 2 Donald Jonas DNP Legacy Scholars for a total of 447 Scholars. This will be the largest cohort to date with Scholars representing 142 institutions. AACN is grateful for the generous support for doctoral nursing education provided by the Jonas Center, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary. Congratulations go to Founders Barbara and Donald Jonas as well as Darlene Curley, CEO of the Jonas Family Fund and Executive Director of the Jonas Center, and her staff!

Winners of AACN's Dissertation and DNP Final Project Awards

AACN continues to see strong interest in our awards program that recognizes outstanding dissertations and DNP projects completed by students in research- and practice-focused doctoral programs. With almost 50 applications received for these top honors, awards were presented at AACN's annual Doctoral Education Conference in January 2016. This year's recipients include:

Excellence in Advancing Nursing Science Award (PhD)

- **Jennifer Dine**, University of Missouri-Columbia, *Characterization of a Novel Regulator and Predictors of Sensitivity to TRAIL-induced Apoptosis in Breast Cancer Cells*
- Honorable Mentions: **Veronica Brady**, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, *Prevalence of Steroid Induced Hyperglycemia in Patients with Mantle Cell Carcinoma Receiving High Dose Steroid* and **Ariana Chao**, Yale University, *Obesity-Related Eating Phenotypes: Examining the Relationships with Food Cravings, Stress, and Metabolic Abnormalities*

Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice Award (DNP)

- **Michelle Davis**, Arizona State University, *Implementing Skin-to-Skin Contact in the Operating Room Following a Cesarean Delivery*
- Honorable Mention: **Susan Klein**, University of San Diego, *Transition After Breast Cancer Treatment: Implementing Survivorship Care Plans*

Abstracts are posted on the AACN web site. Deadline to submit nominations for next year is September 14. See www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/awards/excellence-in-advancing-nursing.

Nominations Due for AACN's Faculty Awards Program

AACN currently is seeking applications for three faculty award programs: the Excellence and Innovation in Teaching Award, the Novice Faculty Teaching Awards, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Excellence Award. These honors were developed to recognize outstanding faculty from AACN member institutions for clinical and didactic teaching with awards for both novice and seasoned nurse educators. The deadline to submit nominations is June 3, 2016. With awards issued in the fall, winners may choose one AACN conference to attend during the 2016-2017 academic year; the registration fee for that conference will be waived. In addition, winners will be spotlighted on AACN's web site and receive a plaque commemorating their achievement. For more information on the awards, see www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/awards.

New Cohort Selected for Faculty Policy Intensive

AACN is pleased to announce the selection of eight distinguished nurse educators for the 2016 Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI). The 2016 cohort was chosen from a highly competitive pool of more than 20 applicants. Now in its fourth year, the FPI is a fully funded, four-day immersion program designed for faculty at AACN member schools who are interested in elevating their role

in shaping health policy. Held in Washington, DC on March 21-24, 2016, the FPI offers these faculty members the unique opportunity to enhance their understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal departments and agencies, national nursing organizations, and the individual advocate. Cohort members include:

- Pamela de Cordova, Rutgers University
- Natacha Pierre, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Anne Derouin, Duke University
- Audra Rankin, University of Louisville
- Sherry Lawrence, University of South Alabama
- Mary Beth Steck, Clemson University
- Jennifer Ohlendorf, Marquette University
- Amber Vermeesch, University of Portland

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Workshops on Holistic Review in Nursing Admissions

Holistic review is an emerging, evidence-based practice that helps schools build a diverse class of nursing students with the background, qualities, and skills needed for success in the workforce. AACN is teaming up with the Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities to offer free workshops on holistic review in nursing admissions, which will be held in conjunction with AACN's Spring Annual Meeting (registration is now full). Funding for this effort was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration and the National Institutes of Health. Focus groups held with attendees at AACN's 2014 Spring Annual Meeting revealed that deans are seeking more guidance on how to implement holistic reviews, including training, legal resources, and examples from top nursing schools that use this process. In response to this unmet need, AACN is piloting a set of workshops and training materials to assist nursing schools in the adoption of holistic review.

Johnson & Johnson Commits \$180,000 to Continue Faculty Scholars Program

Since 2007, AACN and the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future have provided scholarship funding to underrepresented minority nursing students who plan to work as nursing faculty after graduation. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a doctoral nursing program or a clinically focused master's degree. This program is designed to address the shortage of nurse educators while diversifying the nurse faculty population in the U.S. Joining the 63 scholars previously selected for this prestigious honor are the following students, all of whom are enrolled in PhD nursing programs:

- Billy A. Caceres, New York University
- Carla Clements, University of Pennsylvania
- Sharrica Miller, University of California, Los Angeles
- Anitha Saravanan, Loyola University Chicago
- Ashley Jingzhi Xu, Johns Hopkins University

AACN is pleased to announce that Johnson & Johnson has committed to extending this program for another year and will award \$90,000 in continued funding for current scholars and another \$90,000 to five new students in the fall. Applications will be accepted through May 1.

Doctoral Advancement in Nursing (DAN) Project

In an effort to enhance the pipeline of nurses in PhD and DNP programs, AACN and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) initiated the Doctoral Advancement in Nursing (DAN) Project. DAN's expert committee developed strategies to identify, encourage, and support students interested in pursuing doctoral degrees, with a focus on reaching students from disadvantaged backgrounds and groups underrepresented in nursing. A key outcome of the DAN project, the Doctoral Readiness Self-Assessment Survey, was developed to assist prospective nursing students who are considering advanced studies. See <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DoctoralReadinessAssessmentDANStudentAssessment>. This self-reflective survey features practical (finances, time, geographical restriction) and personal factors (motivation attitudes, perceived ability to navigate the application process) to assist students in identifying their readiness for doctoral nursing education. To date, this open-access survey has been completed by more than 1,400 individuals contemplating doctoral study.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

Tri-Council for Nursing

The Tri-Council for Nursing is a long-standing collaboration between AACN, the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), and National League for Nursing (NLN). On January 6, the Tri-Council met to discuss the future of the Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) initiative. AACN's Deb Trautman attended this meeting and underscored the importance of maintaining quality and rigor in all programs leading to the baccalaureate and higher degrees. On February 12, the Tri-Council convened at the headquarters of the AONE in Washington, DC with Board Chair Eileen Breslin, Chair-Elect Julie Sebastian, and President/CEO Deb Trautman representing AACN. The proceedings commenced with an update from government affairs staff on the President's proposed FY 2017 budget, funding for Title VIII programs and NINR, the proposal to secure full practice authority for APRNs in the VA, and the confirmation process for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services deputy secretary nominee, Mary Wakefield. During the meeting, updates also were given on the Nurses on Boards Coalition, the APIN project, RWJF's Culture of Health initiative, and the National Academy of Medicine's Vital Directions for Health and Health Care Steering Committee. In addition, the Tri-Council members endorsed two position statements: one on Community Team-Based Care that was developed by AACN's Julie Sebastian and the ANA's Pam Cipriano, and one on Diversity. Both statements will be disseminated this spring.

Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing (GAPFON)

Created by Sigma Theta Tau International, the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing (GAPFON) was created to improve global health outcomes through multidisciplinary partnerships in areas where nursing's voice and vision are vital to achieving this goal. Chaired by

by Dr. Martha Hill, GAPFON is bringing together key stakeholders with expertise and influence to address global health needs through a series of seven regional meetings. At each convening, recommendations will be prioritized and a plan of action developed. AACN is serving as a sponsor for the North America Regional Meeting in Washington, DC, which is expected to be the largest of all global regional meetings. AACN's Julie Sebastian and Deb Trautman represented the association at these meetings, which were held February 22-26.

Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC)

IPEC – whose founding members include AACN, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the American Dental Education Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Association of Schools of Public Health – continues to provide strategic direction to health profession leaders and faculty seeking to advance interprofessional education and practice. AACN's Deb Trautman currently serves as IPEC's Secretary/Treasurer. Back by popular demand, the collaborative will offer two faculty development institutes this year: the first focused on quality improvement and patient safety on May 4-6, and the second focused on building a framework for IPE on October 5-7. Both offered in the Washington, DC area, the overall goal of the institutes is to create faculty champions who can enhance interprofessional curricula, learning experiences, and assessment of competency development. For more details, see www.ipecaollaborative.org.

On February 22, IPEC announced that it has approved nine additional organizational members through a new institutional membership category, expanding its representation of associations of schools of the health professions to 15. New members include the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Psychological Association, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, Council on Social Work Education, and Physician Assistant Education Association.

AACN Endorses White Paper on Oral Health

AACN's Board of Directors has voted to endorse the white paper on *Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care*, which was published by Qualis Health with support from the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, DentaQuest Foundation, Washington Dental Service Foundation and The REACH Healthcare Foundation. The white paper—endorsed by a broad array of healthcare organizations—makes the case for delivering preventive oral health care as a component of routine health care and enhancing partnerships between primary care and dentistry. The Oral Health Delivery Framework was developed in partnership with a panel of experts, including primary care and dental care providers; leaders from medical, dental, and nursing associations; payers and policymakers; a patient and family partnership expert; and oral health and public health advocates. To review the white paper, see www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/curriculum-standards.

PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW RESOURCES

Data on New Nurse Graduates and Employers Preferences

In November 2015, AACN released the results of its fourth survey of nursing schools offering baccalaureate and graduate programs in the U.S. to better assess the experience of new graduates in finding employment and employer preferences for new hires. In terms of job prospects, the employment rate at graduation was 61% for BSN students, with the employment rate at 4-6 months after graduation rising to 90%. By comparison, the National Association of Colleges and Employers conducted a national survey of almost 44,000 new college graduates across disciplines and found that only 29.3% of new graduates last year had a job offer at graduation. AACN also collected data on entry-level master's degree programs and found that these graduates were most likely to have secured jobs at graduation (73%) and at 4-6 months post-graduation (94%) than were BSN graduates. In addition, surveyed schools were asked if employers in their area were requiring or strongly preferring new hires with baccalaureate degrees. Findings showed that 47.4% of employers require the BSN for new hires while 83.5% strongly prefer BSN-prepared nurses. See www.aacn.nche.edu/leading_initiatives_news/news/2015/employment15.

2015 Faculty Vacancy Survey Results Posted Online

The latest data from AACN's annual survey of faculty vacancies confirm that the shortage of nurse educators is being driven by a limited pool of doctorally prepared nurses, insufficient faculty with the right specialty mix, and noncompetitive faculty salaries. Based on data from 741 U.S. nursing schools with baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs (82.6% member school response rate), the full-time faculty vacancy rate in 2015 was 7.1%. Most of the reported vacancies (90.7%) are for faculty positions requiring or preferring a doctoral degree in nursing or a related field. Survey respondents reported that the top faculty recruitment barriers are insufficient funds to hire new faculty (65.4%); unwillingness of administration to commit to additional full-time positions (53.1%); an inability to recruit qualified applicants due to job competition (36.2%); and a lack of faculty with the required specialty expertise (22.3%). See www.aacn.nche.edu/leading-initiatives/research-data/vacancy15.pdf.

NursingCAS Welcomes 15 New Schools

Since October, 15 new schools have joined NursingCAS, the nation's only centralized application service for students seeking nursing careers. Participating schools include a mix of academic health centers, liberal arts-focused schools, public and private institutions, religiously affiliated schools, and community colleges. More than 80,000 applications to over 1,800 nursing programs were initiated through NursingCAS last year. AACN is collaborating with our partner Liaison International to strategically plan for and execute technological and operational improvements to increase applicant and school user satisfaction with NursingCAS. Schools interested in finding out more about using this free service are encouraged to visit AACN's web site, www.mynursingcas.org, and/or contact NursingCAS Director Caroline Allen to schedule a school-specific demonstration with Q&A at callen@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 258.

ELNEC Train-the-Trainer Courses Scheduled

Administered through a partnership between AACN and the City of Hope, the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) is committed to improving palliative care in the U.S. and abroad. ELNEC is the nation's leading educational initiative focused on improving palliative care provided by nurses. To date, more than 20,700 nurses and other healthcare professionals, representing all 50 US states plus 88 countries, have received ELNEC training. At each course, participants are taught by national nursing leaders in palliative care and are given resources so they can "pay it forward" and teach this content to nursing students and clinicians. Several national ELNEC train-the-trainer courses are scheduled this year across the U.S.—Scottsdale, AZ, Charleston, SC, Tulsa, OK, and Orlando, FL. In addition, the final National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded course for DNP faculty and clinicians will be June 28-29 in Atlanta, GA. For the schedule of upcoming ELNEC courses, visit www.aacn.nche.edu/elnec.

Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Visionary and Vanguard Awards

At the CNL Summit in January, AACN announced that Grace Sotomayor, Chief Nursing Executive at Carolinas Medical Center, and Mary Lou Wesley, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of the Sparrow Health System, were selected as joint recipients of the 2016 CNL Visionary Leader Award. This award is the highest honor presented by AACN to practice leaders making significant contributions to advancing the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) initiative. Also at the summit, the CNL Vanguard Awards, which recognize the innovative work of CNL-certified nurses and CNL nurse educators, also were presented to Robert J. LaPointe from the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA and Sally O'Toole Gerard from Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT. See www.aacn.nche.edu/news/articles/2015/cnl-awards-2016.

AACN Leadership Networks

To date, more than 1,550 nursing school faculty and staff at member institutions have joined AACN's Leadership Networks. These networks provide a forum for peer professionals to share best practices and success stories, sharpen leadership skills, participate in professional development activities, and take full advantage of AACN resources. Networks include Organizational Leadership, Instructional Leadership, Research Leadership, Practice Leadership, Business Officers of Nursing Schools, Nursing Advancement Professionals, and Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals. See www.aacn.nche.edu/Networks.

Upcoming Conferences

AACN conferences and seminars provide deans/directors, faculty, staff, and graduate students with a stimulating source of professional development that builds educational and leadership skills and allows for valuable networking. Upcoming conferences include the Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals Network Meeting in Orlando, FL on March 28-30; Business Officers of Nursing Schools Network Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ on April 20-22; Summer Seminar in San Francisco, CA on July 17-20; and the Fall Semiannual Meeting in Washington, DC on October 29-November 1. For details on upcoming conferences, see www.aacn.nche.edu/conferences.

CCNE Board of Commissioners Elects 2016 Officers

In November, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) announced the election of Dr. Susan D. Ruppert from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston as Chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners. Dr. Ruppert assumed the role of Chair on January 1, 2016. In addition to this appointment, the CCNE Board elected the following individuals to leadership positions: Dr. Debra C. Davis from the University of South Alabama was named Vice Chair; Ellen B. Ceppetelli from Castleton University was named Treasurer; and Dr. Lauren Goodloe from Virginia Commonwealth University was named Secretary. All officers were elected to one-year terms and may be re-elected to the office for a second term.

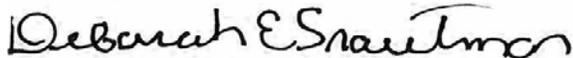
Welcome to New Staff Members

Since the Fall Semiannual Meeting, AACN has welcomed several new staff members, including: **Allison Jacobs**, CDC Project Manager; **Ike Pappas**, Staff Accountant; and **Rachel Stayton**, Student Services Assistant. Welcome and congratulations!

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on AACN's recent activities.



Eileen T. Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN
Board Chair



Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer