



## ***Board Chair and President/CEO Report March 2018***

This report updates members on initiatives and activities undertaken by the AACN Board of Directors, President/CEO, and staff since the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference in October 2017.

### **MAJOR INITIATIVES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Results of the 2018 AACN Board and Nominating Committee Election**

On February 7, AACN announced the results of the 2018 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 26. Congratulations go to:

- **Chair-Elect:** Judy Beal, Simmons College
- **Secretary:** Jean Leuner, Auburn University Montgomery
- **Board Members-at-Large:** Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, Oklahoma Baptist University; Christie Shelton, Jacksonville State University; Kristen Swanson, Seattle University
- **Nominating Committee:** Janet Krejci, Marquette University; Lillia Loriz, University of North Florida

#### **Message to Members on Gun Violence**

In response to the events in Parkland, Florida, AACN issued a “Call for Reflection and Courage to Address Gun Violence” on February 22 to all member deans, faculty, and students. In this communication, Board Chair Juliann Sebastian and President/CEO Deborah Trautman praised nurses for the pivotal role they play when tragedy strikes and called for all members of the academic nursing community to open their hearts to healing. The association’s leaders also expressed that AACN is joining with our colleagues in the broader healthcare community to advocate for public health safety measures to help end gun violence and to consider related mental health issues. AACN applauds all those who will be participating in the March for Our Lives, which will take place in Washington on March 24 during the AACN meeting, for their commitment to raising awareness of the need to end gun violence and school shootings.

#### **Jonas Philanthropies Expands Support for Doctoral Students**

On February 20, AACN reported that the Jonas Philanthropies announced plans to support a 2018-2020 cohort of 200 Jonas Scholars. Partnering with universities across the country, Jonas scholarships provide \$10,000 in funding over two years, as well as leadership development and networking opportunities. Launched in 2008 to address the nursing faculty shortage, the Jonas Scholars initiative has grown in both reach and scope to support more than 1,000 Scholars in all

50 states who have transitioned into roles as faculty, clinical leaders, and researchers. Upon its 10-year mark, Jonas refined the goal of the program to “improving healthcare through targeted investments in high-potential doctoral nursing students whose research and clinical foci specifically address our nation’s most pressing healthcare needs.” AACN commends the leaders of Jonas Philanthropies for their strong commitment to enhancing health care through a generous investment in doctoral nursing education.

### **Final Data Released from AACN’s Fall 2017 Survey**

The final results from AACN’s fall 2017 annual survey show that enrollment in registered nursing programs continues to be robust, despite dips in PhD and RN to BSN programs. From 2016 to 2017, the greatest increases in enrollment were seen in Doctor of Nursing Practice (15.0%), master’s (5.2%), and entry-level baccalaureate programs (4.3%). For the third consecutive year, enrollment in PhD programs decreased, this time by 5.2%. Following a 15-year period of enrollment growth, the number of students in RN to Baccalaureate programs decreased by 2.0%. The latest data also show that 69,188 qualified applications were turned away from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs last year, including 11,959 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 896 of the 1,009 nursing schools in the U.S. (88.8% response rate) with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs. Complimentary copies of the 2017 survey results are being distributed to all schools that contributed data to this report.

### **AACN Partners with Apple to Promote Digital Innovation in Nursing**

On February 15, AACN announced a new partnership with Apple Education, the Digital Innovations Bootcamp, which will be held July 9-12 in Austin, TX. This program is designed specifically for faculty, administrators, and staff in nursing programs with an interest in using the latest technology to enhance learning experiences in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings. Those invited to participate in this training opportunity will enjoy sessions on creating digital content, developing apps and iBooks, and creating an engaging learning environment. Response to this offering has been robust, with more than 125 applications received for the 30 available spaces. Participants are expected to complete a digital project and may be selected to present at one of AACN's upcoming conferences. The application period for the inaugural program is now closed, but AACN is working with Apple to offer another boot camp to meet the great demand.

### **AACN Board of Directors Approves Common APRN Doctoral-Level Competencies**

In October 2017, the AACN Board of Directors approved the document titled *Common Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Doctoral-Level Competencies*, which was developed by a work group established by the Board in 2016. Chaired by Dr. Laurie Lauzon Clabo from Wayne State University, the work group convened a dialogue with 25 national organizations involved in APRN education, licensure, certification, and accreditation to discuss the current state of competency-based education. The group’s deliberations resulted in a common taxonomy for competencies for the doctoral-prepared APRN. These competencies are foundational to

contemporary practice across each of the four APRN roles and are not intended to replicate previously identified role-specific competencies for advanced practice, but rather to demonstrate the utility of a consistent framework that fosters both intraprofessional and interprofessional communication. See [www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/pdf/Common-APRN-Doctoral-Competencies.pdf](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/pdf/Common-APRN-Doctoral-Competencies.pdf).

### **New Funding Opportunity through Public/Population Health Learning Hub Awards**

The AACN/CDC's Collaboration with Academia to Strengthen Public Health Workforce Capacity is pleased to announce funding for schools of nursing looking to develop Public/Population Health Learning Hubs to support new or existing partnerships with local/state health departments, non-health sector entities, and community agencies. The purpose of the Public/Population Health Learning Hubs is to provide leadership and learning opportunities to undergraduate and/or graduate nursing students while engaging with community agencies to address population health needs. The partnership project will provide two awards in the amount of \$10,000 to support the initial planning and implementation of the project, including the direct cost of convening local meetings, setting priorities, and planning community-based initiatives. View the awards announcement for background, eligibility, and application information. Applications are due April 13. For details, see [www.aacnnursing.org/Population-Health-Nursing/Public-Health-Learning-Hubs](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Population-Health-Nursing/Public-Health-Learning-Hubs).

### **NIH Awards New Funding to AACN**

In November 2017, AACN announced a competitive mini-grant award opportunity for member schools on the West Coast, with funding provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). AACN issued a call for proposals on accelerating the dissemination of information about the NIH's *All of Us* Research Program to historically underrepresented communities in biomedical research. This initiative is designed to promote collaboration between established community partners and academic nursing to increase engagement in the *All of Us* program. Following a review of the applications, two \$10,000 awards were presented to faculty from the University of California San Francisco and San Jose State University.

### **Gold Foundation Offers New Opportunity to Nursing Students**

In February 2018, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation announced that the Hope Babette Tang Humanism in Healthcare Essay Contest would expand to include submissions from nursing students at the request of AACN and with support by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). This annual essay contest highlighting humanism in health care has sought submissions exclusively from medical students for nearly 20 years. "With health care becoming more team-based, AACN applauds the Gold Foundation for inviting nursing students to add their voices to the national conversation on the need to elevate the patient care experience," said AACN Board Chair Dr. Juliann Sebastian. "Through the Hope Babette Tang Humanism in Healthcare Essay Contest, AACN is delighted to join with AAMC and the Gold Foundation to showcase exemplars that underscore the connection between interprofessional engagement and compassionate care." Essay submissions will be accepted from nursing students until March 30. See [www.gold-foundation.org/programs/essay-contest](http://www.gold-foundation.org/programs/essay-contest).

## **LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE**

### **Advocating for the APRN Consensus Model**

At the Interim Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) held in November 2017, members of the AMA House of Delegates passed Resolution 214, which called for the creation of a national strategy to limit the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). The resolution also called for opposing the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation that AACN has worked to implement on a national scale. The resolution does not account for the essential roles APRNs play in today's healthcare system or the growing body of research linking APRNs to quality patient outcomes. On November 29, Juliann Sebastian and Deb Trautman sent a letter to the President and CEO of the AMA to address misconceptions and answer questions about APRN education and practice. AACN called for initiating a national dialogue on how to foster collaboration where all members of the healthcare team are respected and valued. AACN believes the goal of this conversation would be to strengthen ties between medicine and nursing to enhance patient care and create an environment where new models of care can be effectively implemented and perfected.

### **Apply Now for the AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program**

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 experienced nursing deans and directors. Offered at The Wharton School in Philadelphia on August 6-9, 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 influence skills, and the confidence and ability to serve on or 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 March 30. For more details, see [www.aacnnursing.org/Faculty/Professional-Development/Wharton-Executive-Program](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Faculty/Professional-Development/Wharton-Executive-Program).

### **AACN Leadership Networks**

To date, more than 1,600 faculty and staff from 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. Designed to facilitate connections between colleagues nationwide, Network membership brings many benefits, including discounts on conferences and educational events, members-only access to online community forums, access to the membership directory to facilitate networking, and opportunities to learn from others and develop as a leader. Networks include Organizational Leadership (OLN), Faculty Resource (FRN), Research Leadership (RLN), Faculty Practice Leadership (PLN), Business Officers of Nursing Schools (BONUS), Nursing Advancement Professionals (NAP), and Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals (GNAP). See [www.aacn.nche.edu/Networks](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Networks).

Last year, the Instructional Leadership Network changed its name to the **Faculty Resource Network (FRN)** and expanded its charge to serve faculty teaching across program types in a variety of roles. This network provides a forum for nursing faculty to explore real-world issues, pose pedagogy questions, and exchange ideas related to teaching and curriculum in professional nursing education. The FRN facilitates faculty networking and fosters development of its members through webinars, conference sessions, and electronic communications that support the evolution of teaching and learning. Network benefits include access to an exclusive online community dedicated to topics of interest to nursing faculty, volunteer opportunities such as service on the FRN steering committee, opportunities to serve as reviewers for AACN's award and special programs, and discounts and member only programming, including webinars and programs during the annual Baccalaureate Education Conference.

### **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 2017:

- On October 30, Jane Kirschling from the University of Maryland moderated a session sponsored by AACN at the biannual convention of the Sigma Theta Tau International titled "Insights on Becoming a Nurse Educator." Panelists included Robin Newhouse from Indiana University and Joyce Griffin-Sobel from Washington State University.
- On November 5-6, Deb Trautman attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Boston, MA.
- On November 7, Deb Trautman attended a meeting of the Washington Higher Education Secretariat in Washington, DC.
- On November 10, Deb Trautman presented the leadership lecture at the University of Pittsburgh's annual National Conference of the Professional Nurse Educators: *Forging Revitalization: Eliminating Gaps Between Nursing Science and Patient Care*.
- On November 17-19, Deb Trautman attended the annual meeting of the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing in Phoenix, AZ.
- On November 29-30, Deb Trautman attended the 2017 Symposium on Physician Well-Being hosted by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in Chicago.
- On December 7, Deb Trautman organized a lunch meeting with the new CEO of Sigma Theta Tau International, Elizabeth Madigan, in Indianapolis. Sigma's outgoing CEO, Patricia Thompson, also attended the lunch.
- On December 14, Deb Trautman attended a board meeting with leaders of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) in Washington, DC.
- On December 14-15, Deb Trautman attended the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience in Washington, DC.
- On January 24, Deb Trautman attended the Winter 2018 Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Council Meeting in Washington, DC.
- On January 31-February 2, Deb Trautman attended the 2018 CEO/Executive Director Leadership Forum in Rancho Mirage, CA.

- On February 5-7, Deb Trautman attended the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Fieldstone Group Meeting in Annapolis, MD. Attendees discussed changing employment models for the health professions, changing expectations for leaders and leadership, and the impact of changing demographics on the applicant pool.
- On February 8, Deb Trautman attended the Special Medical Advisory Group Subcommittee Meeting convened by the Secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs.
- On February 14, Juliann Sebastian, Deb Trautman, and AACN's Chief Academic Officer Joan Stanley attended the NP Bridge to Partnership Stakeholders Meeting convened by NONPF in Washington, DC.
- On February 14, Deb Trautman attended a reception and dinner for the RWJF Health Policy Fellows in Washington, DC.
- On February 21, Deb Trautman attended a luncheon meeting with Dr. Mary Wakefield convened by the Georgetown University School of Nursing in Washington, DC.
- On February 22-23, Deb Trautman gave remarks at the reception and the opening reception of the Graduate Nursing Student Academy's first national conference in Atlanta, GA.
- On February 26-28, Deb Trautman attended at CCNE Site Evaluation at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA.
- On March 1, Juliann Sebastian and Deb Trautman attended the 2018 National Nursing Research Roundtable hosted by the Southern Nursing Research Society in Bethesda, MD.
- On March 5-6, Deb Trautman attended the Midyear Meeting of the National Council of State Board of Nursing held in Chicago, IL.
- On March 9, Deb Trautman attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception and Dinner Celebration hosted by the American Council on Education in Washington, DC.

## **FACULTY AND STUDENT RESOURCES**

### **New Member Benefit: Livestreaming from AACN's Conferences**

In November 2017, AACN began live broadcasting from the Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral Education Conferences to expand member access to this AACN programming content. From each of these events, AACN members were able to tune in for free to view one conference session from noted thought leaders. These webcasts included presentations by reality-based leadership expert Cy Wakeman, academic-practice partners from New York University, and leading health workforce researcher Jack Needleman. Each recorded session can now be accessed on demand from our website. The webcasts are available free of charge to all AACN members and offer one CE credit. See [www.aacnursing.org/Professional-Development/Online-Learning/Conference-Webcasts](http://www.aacnursing.org/Professional-Development/Online-Learning/Conference-Webcasts).

### **AACN Statement on the Use of Simulation in Nursing Education**

After the Fall Meeting in October 2017, misinformation about AACN's position on the use of simulation in nursing education began circulating within our community of interest. Several nurse leaders and deans contacted staff to ask if AACN was moving to prohibit the use of simulation in nursing programs. To set the record straight, AACN issued a statement in the November 15 *News Watch* to clarify that AACN does not prohibit the use of simulation in offering quality clinical learning experiences. The statement also mentioned that none of

AACN's current task forces were working on statements that would curtail the use of simulation. Further, CCNE does not prescribe the minimum or maximum number of hours when it comes to simulation. Some state boards of nursing regulate the number of clinical learning hours that can be completed via simulation in schools of nursing within their states. The statement included a contact email address, but no further inquiries were received.

### **New Position Statement on Preferred Professoriate Endorsed**

At the Academic Nurse Leadership Conference in October 2017, AACN members voted to endorse an updated position statement on the *Preferred Vision of the Professoriate in Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*. Developed by a task force led by Dr. Loucine Huckabay from California State University Long Beach, the new vision of the professoriate is considered within four domains: the faculty as individual, the roles they occupy, their shared values, and the role of the academic nursing program in creating an intellectual environment that fosters professional growth. To access the statement, see [www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Position-Statements-White-Papers/Professoriate](http://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Position-Statements-White-Papers/Professoriate).

### **Inaugural GNSA Conference Convenes Future Nurse Leaders**

Held in Atlanta on February 22-24, the first national conference convened by the Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA) was an exhilarating event for nursing students from across the country. The inspiring keynote session presented by Alex Wubbels, a clinical nurse educator in the Burn Trauma Intensive Care Unit at the University of Utah Hospital, sparked a larger conversation regarding what it means to have moral courage. Other national nursing experts at the conference included Dr. Patricia Morton, dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Utah (and editor of the *Journal of Professional Nursing*), who drilled down to the key steps for developing a manuscript for publication. Additional sessions enriched the learning and practice of attendees by covering topics such as health policy, mentoring, interprofessional education, nursing innovation, and nurses as entrepreneurs. Three panels consisting of leading experts in nursing education, leadership, and practice helped answer questions for graduate students as they get set to embark on their careers.

### **Ninth Annual AACN Student Policy Summit**

Nursing students with an interest in health policy will converge on Washington, DC for the 2018 Student Policy Summit (SPS), which is being held March 25-27. 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. This year, Dr. Alexis D. Bakos, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will serve as the keynote speaker for the event. Additionally, Dr. Patricia Grady, Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research, will impress upon the students the importance of research in shaping policy.

## Winners of AACN's Dissertation and DNP Final Project Awards

AACN continues to see strong interest in our awards program recognizing outstanding dissertations and DNP projects completed by students in research- and practice-focused doctoral programs. With almost 30 applications received for these top honors, awards were presented at AACN's annual Doctoral Education Conference in January 2018. This year's recipients include:

### Excellence in Advancing Nursing Science Award (PhD)

- **Kristen Weaver**, PhD, RN, New York University, *Brain-gut Axis Dysregulation in Patients with IBS; An Exploratory Investigation for Markers of Stress*
- Honorable Mention: **Latefa Dardas**, PhD, RN, Duke University, *A Nationally Representative Survey of Depression Symptoms among Jordanian Adolescents: Associations with Depression Stigma, Depression Etiological Beliefs, and Likelihood to Seek Help for Depression*

### Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice Award (DNP)

- **Dixie Rasmussen**, DNP, CNM, University of Utah, *Can a Rural Hospital Reliably Perform an Emergency Cesarean Section in 30 Minutes or Less?*

Abstracts are posted on the AACN website. Deadline to submit nominations for next year is August 30. See [www.aacnnursing.org/Membership/AACN-Awards/Excellence-in-Advancing-Nursing](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Membership/AACN-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 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 May 25. With awards issued in the fall, winners may choose one AACN conference to attend during the 2018-2019 academic year; the registration fee for that conference will be waived. In addition, winners will be spotlighted on AACN's website and receive a plaque commemorating their achievement. Take the time to nominate your faculty for their outstanding efforts. For more information on the awards, see [www.aacnnursing.org/Membership/Awards](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Membership/Awards).

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

### Holistic Admissions Review Training Underway in 19 States

Last year, AACN announced that it would provide a technical assistance program for nursing schools seeking funding through the Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) program offered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To receive funding, applicants were required to establish a formal agreement with a health professions organization to provide staff



training related to Holistic Admissions Review. In response to the HRSA program announcement, AACN developed a structured NWD Technical Assistance Program that features an assessment of admissions practices, an on-site Holistic Admissions Review workshop, student recruitment and retention strategies, and models for building a successful mentoring program. A total of 29 out of 31 grant recipients have executed contracts with AACN to complete the required training, and initial on-site training at each institution will be completed by early spring. Dr. Vernell DeWitty, AACN's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and her staff are collaborating with funded schools to offer trainings in 19 states to satisfy grant requirements. AACN also is working with more than a dozen additional schools interested in providing this training at their schools of nursing without funding support from HRSA.

### **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 50 scholars previously selected for this prestigious honor are the following students, all of whom are enrolled in doctoral nursing programs:

- **Griselle B. Estrada**, PhD student, Duquesne University
- **Monica J. Harmon**, PhD student, Villanova University
- **Stephanie NS Hosley**, DNP student, The Ohio State University
- **Christina Jones**, PhD student, University of Florida
- **Carli Zegers**, PhD student, University of Nebraska Medical Center

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 31.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **New AACN-AONE Joint Committee Moves Forward**

On January 15, members of the AACN-AONE Advisory Committee met to continue its work to strengthen alignment between leaders in practice and academia. The committee formed two subgroups to focus on innovation and strategy. Co-chaired by Dr. Greer Glazer from the University of Cincinnati and Dr. Deborah Zimmerman from the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, the Strategy Sub-Group is working to identify strategies to develop and maintain constructive working relationships with practice and academic leaders; assess existing workforce and outcome data to identify gaps; develop two strategic priorities for 2018 to further strengthen academic-practice partnerships; and identify strategies for a *New Era 2.0* report. Chaired by Dr. Judy Beal from Simmons College and Dr. Kathleen Gallo from Northwell Health, the Innovators Sub-Group is working to advance smart strategies for workforce development considering the emerging issues impacting the health professions workforce, which

includes developing an RFP to promote transformation in the nursing workforce to meet the demands of the healthcare system. Both sub-groups have met via conference call and a variety of recommendations for next steps were sent to the AACN and AONE Board Chairs for consideration.

### **Tri-Council for Nursing**

In 2018, AACN is serving as the convener of the Tri-Council for Nursing, a long-time collaboration between leading organizations representing education, research, and practice, which include AACN, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, and the National League for Nursing. On January 12, AACN Board Chair Juliann Sebastian, Chair-Elect Ann Cary, and President/CEO Deb Trautman hosted the Tri-Council at AACN's new headquarters in Washington, DC. The agenda for that meeting included a health policy update, priority setting for 2018, enhancing the impact and influence of the collaborative, and optimizing communication. At the meeting, the members also agreed to invite the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to become an auditing member of the Tri-Council for the remainder of the year.

### **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 and Treasurer. On November 29-December 1, IPEC presented its first Interprofessional Deans Leadership Program (IDL) for senior academic leaders from across the health professions seeking to enhance their expertise in interprofessional engagement. Facilitated by faculty from the Academy for Academic Leadership, this interactive professional development experience was customized to the needs of deans with three or fewer years of experience from IPEC member associations' schools. Participation was limited to two representatives from each health discipline. Deb Trautman presented along with her colleagues from pharmacy and dentistry on the "Dean as Advocate." Based on the positive response from attendees, plans are underway to offer the IDLP in 2018.

## **PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW RESOURCES**

### **Data on New Nurse Graduates and Employers Preferences**

In November 2017, AACN released the results of its seventh 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 73% for BSN students, with the employment rate at 4-6 months after graduation rising to 94%. By comparison, the National Association of Colleges and Employers conducted a national survey of more than 23,000 new college graduates across disciplines and found that only 46% 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 very likely to have secured jobs at graduation (78%) and at 4-6 months post-graduation (95%). In addition, surveyed schools were asked if employers in their area were requiring or strongly preferring new hires with baccalaureate degrees. Findings showed that 49% of employers require the BSN for new hires while 86.3% strongly prefer BSN-prepared nurses. See [www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Research-Data-Center/Employment/2017](http://www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Research-Data-Center/Employment/2017).

### **2017 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 832 U.S. nursing schools with baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs (83.3% response rate), the full-time faculty vacancy rate in 2017 was 7.3%. Most of the reported vacancies (87.6%) 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 (75.0%); unwillingness of administration to commit to additional full-time positions (51.6%); an inability to recruit qualified applicants due to job competition (35.2%); and a lack of faculty with the required specialty expertise (27.3%). See [www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/News/Surveys-Data/vacancy17.pdf](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/News/Surveys-Data/vacancy17.pdf).

### **NursingCAS Expands in Response to Growing Demand**

Launched in 2010, NursingCAS is the nation's only centralized application service for students applying to nursing programs. Participating schools include a mix of academic health centers, liberal arts-focused schools, public and private institutions, religiously affiliated schools, and community colleges. The 2017–2018 NursingCAS Application Cycle opened last fall, and over 87,000 applications have been generated thus far. Operations are running very smoothly with an average processing time of 5 days. Since October 2017, 21 new schools have joined the service, bringing the total number of enrolled schools to 250. Several new enhancements were implemented, including a fee waiver program, full access to in-progress applicant data, and new searchable help centers for applicants and school users with improved instructions. Schools interested in finding out more about using this free service are encouraged to visit [www.mynursingcas.org/join](http://www.mynursingcas.org/join) or contact NursingCAS Director Caroline Kane to schedule a school-specific demonstration with Q&A at [ckane@aacnnursing.org](mailto:ckane@aacnnursing.org) or 202-463-6930, ext. 258. Visit [www.nursingcas.org](http://www.nursingcas.org) to learn more about the applicant experience.

### **ELNEC Expands its International Reach**

Administered by AACN and The City of Hope, the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) is an international education initiative to improve care of those with serious, complex illness/injury. Since ELNEC was introduced in 2001, more than 22,300 nurses and other healthcare professionals have attended a train-the-trainer course. ELNEC has been presented in 96 countries around the world, and its curriculum has been translated into nine languages—Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, German, Romanian, Czech, and Albanian. Using the palliative care competencies endorsed by the AACN Board of Directors, an online ELNEC

curriculum was developed for undergraduate nursing students, thanks to a generous grant from the Cambia Health Foundation. Since ELNEC-For-Undergraduates debuted last year, more than 200 nursing schools nationwide are now using the curriculum. For more details, see [www.aacnnursing.org/ELNEC](http://www.aacnnursing.org/ELNEC).

### **Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Visionary and Vanguard Awards**

In February 2018, AACN and the Commission on Nurse Certification announced the latest winners of the annual CNL Awards, which recognize the innovative work of certified CNLs in practice and education. Connie Garrett from the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL was presented with the CNL Vanguard Award for exemplary practice as a CNL, and Dr. Christine Ralyea from the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC received the CNL Educator Award. Both honors were presented during the opening session of the annual CNL Summit on February 21 in Anaheim, CA.

### **AACN-TV Showcases Innovation in Nursing**

Recruitment is now underway for member schools and their practice partners interested in showcasing their innovative work via AACN-TV. Accessible at [www.aacntv.org](http://www.aacntv.org), this platform was created through a partnership between AACN and New Media News TV to highlight schools of nursing, promote pathways into the profession, and explore future directions in nursing education. To date, 33 videos have been produced through this partnership with more than a dozen new videos currently in progress. Nursing schools interested in finding out more about AACN-TV, including production requirements, timeline, and costs, are encouraged to contact site producer Danny Cohen with New Media News TV at [danny@aacntv.org](mailto:danny@aacntv.org).

### **AACN Hosts Open House at its New Headquarters**

On November 21, AACN hosted an Open House for colleagues from the Interprofessional Education Collaborative, the Federation of Associations of the Schools of the Health Professions, kindred nursing organizations, and others who work with the association. Attendees were able to tour AACN's striking new office at 655 K Street in Washington, DC. At the Open House, AACN Board Chair Juliann Sebastian and President/CEO Deborah Trautman welcomed former long-time AACN Chief Executive Officer Dr. Polly Bednash and announced that the association's executive conference room would be named in her honor.

### **CCNE's 20th Anniversary: 1998-2018**

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, AACN's autonomous accrediting arm, is celebrating 20 years of ensuring excellence in nursing. In November 2017, CCNE announced a year-long celebration, honoring the contributions of faculty and administrators at its accredited programs, volunteer on-site evaluators, and past and current committee and Board members, who all work together to promote excellence in nursing. Throughout its 20th anniversary year, CCNE will be publishing a series of editorials highlighting the values adopted at its inception. To read the latest editorials and to view the CCNE anniversary video, see [www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/20th-Anniversary](http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE-Accreditation/20th-Anniversary).

## 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 Conference in Nashville, TN on April 2-4; Business Officers of Nursing Schools Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX on April 25-27; Summer Seminar in Quebec City, QC Canada on July 22-25; and the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference in Washington, DC on October 27-30. For details on upcoming conferences, see [www.aacnnursing.org/conferences](http://www.aacnnursing.org/conferences).

## Welcome to New Staff Members

Since the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference last fall, AACN has welcomed several new staff members, including: **Erin Bolinger**, Membership Assistant; **Payal Shah**, Policy Assistant; **Michael Turinetti**, Data Services Assistant; and **Jessica Washington**, Marketing Manager. CCNE also recently welcomed **Michael Kelly** as Accreditation Operations Coordinator. Congratulations to all!

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



Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chair, Board of Directors



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