



Task Force on AACN's Vision for Nursing Education March 2017

In July 2016, the AACN Board of Directors created the Task Force on AACN's Vision for Nursing Education to clarify preferred educational pathways and the preparation necessary to succeed in evolving nursing roles. The task force was asked to consider academic nursing's role in promoting population health, addressing the social determinants of health, and advancing interprofessional engagement. The task force also was asked to propose overarching curricular recommendations for baccalaureate and graduate programs. The task force charge can be accessed [here](#).

This report addresses the progress and activities related to the AACN's Vision for Nursing Education Task Force from January – March 2017. During this time, the task force held three conference calls and initiated a deeper dive into six areas or themes. The themes included: 1) External Forces – those that are shaping and driving nursing education and practice; 2) Future Regulation of Nursing Education; 3) Translation and Integration of Learning and Practice; 4) Curricular Openness and Creativity, including the use of technology and social media, learning resources, experiences, reward systems, and disruptive innovations; 5) Rules of Higher Education, including interprofessional education, promotion and tenure, and education/course requirements; and 6) Learners, including expenses associated with higher education and the needs and ways of learning for today's students.

The task force's discussion continues to intersect in several areas with AACN's other task forces, specifically Defining Scholarship for Academic Nursing, the Preferred Vision of the Professoriate, and Academic Progression in Nursing. Communication among these task forces continues to inform progress and commonalities. Based on the broad discussion of higher education, health care, nursing education, and practice described above, each task force member has been asked to identify the specific topics that nursing needs to pay attention to, can control, and respond to in the context of the group's charge relevant to the future of nursing education. To guide and inform the work moving forward, the task force invited and heard from the following experts: on policy, Pat Polanski, co-director of the Center to Champion Nursing in America; on climate change and environmental health, Patricia Butterfield, dean emerita and professor, Washington State University; on workforce challenges faced by health system leaders, Deborah Burton, vice president and chief nursing officer for Providence Health and Services; and on regulation, David Benton, CEO, National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Next Steps:

A joint conference call for the chairs of the five AACN task forces is scheduled for March 15 in anticipation of the update that will be provided to attendees at the Spring 2017 Annual Meeting. The intent of this call is to share the progress to date and identify areas of work leading to the development of position statements. The task force will continue to invite and engage experts to

inform and guide its work on addressing the charge. The task force is on target with the AACN Board's timeline to present a position statement for a vote by the membership in March 2018.

Task Force Members:

- Christine Pacini, *Chair*, University of Detroit Mercy
- Mary Bishop, University of West Georgia (Faculty)
- Ginny Bowman, MD Anderson (Practice)
- Jean Giddens, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Jeanne-Marie Havener, Castleton University
- Joan Shaver, University of Arizona
- *AACN Board Liaison*: Cynthia McCurren, Grand Valley State University
- *AACN Staff Liaisons*: Joan Stanley and Rick García