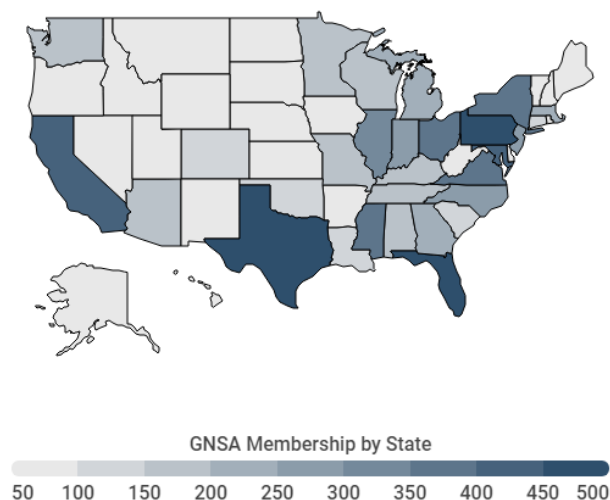


Report on the Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA) March 2018

Since October 2017, the following activities have been undertaken by the GNSA Leadership Council and AACN staff in support of this initiative.

Membership: Membership in the GNSA continues to grow. Already in FY 2018, 1,202 new members have joined. AACN continues to monitor which schools and states continue to expand GNSA membership to ensure that all member institutions are taking advantage of this important benefit for their students. The map below illustrates GNSA membership by state with most members coming from states with darker shades of blue. Staff continues to track these numbers and work to increase membership in every state.



The GNSA membership breakdown by program level is as follows: 9.1% in RN to MSN programs, 10.2% in entry-level MSN programs, 42.5% in MSN programs, 9.2% in BS to DNP program, 13.4% in DNP programs, 1.2% in BS to PhD programs, 5.8% in PhD programs, and 8.6% in other programs (includes dual degree and certificate programs). As the GNSA membership application now collects data on specific program focus, we will continue doing more analysis to determine whether there are any trends in membership.

Leadership Council: The members of the Leadership Council continue to hold bi-monthly conference calls and communicate through online forums. The group held their first face-to-face meeting in November 2017 during AACN's Faculty Development Conference. During this meeting, members discussed further engaging Liaisons in the GNSA, ideas for potential webinar topics, and developing a potential mentoring program for the GNSA.

GNSA Conference: The first GNSA conference was held on February 22-24 in Atlanta, GA. The conference theme, *Seizing the Opportunity to Lead and Shape the Future of Health Care*, helped set the tone throughout the conference and provided the foundation for the conference objectives. Staff

worked with a group of 5 current graduate students who served on the planning committee and helped provide feedback on content and structure of the conference. A total of 140 individuals were in attendance at the conference and participated in sessions focused on moral courage, preparing a manuscript for publication, transitioning into careers in education, practice, and leadership, and interprofessional education. The keynote session speaker, Alex Wubbels, kicked off the conference with an inspirational message that left attendees waiting for over an hour for a chance to speak with her. Based on the conference evaluations, attendees rated the conference 4.6 (on a 5 point scale) for meeting their overall learning objectives. Out of the sessions offered, 50% of them received a rating above 4.5. Some of the specific comments made in the evaluations included:

“Great conference! Excellent speakers! I wish that the sessions were recorded so that attendees could watch them again.”

“The GNSA conference provided a safe and nurturing environment to present my first poster. I felt very comfortable, and it was a great way to gain experience!”

“I learned so much from this conference and was able to bring this information back to my college. Wonderful amazing learning experience.”

“Pleasantly pleased with the strength of the conference in regards to speakers and their leadership profiles. One of the best conferences I have EVER attended.”

Overall, the conference was a success as demonstrated by the evaluations and comments provided. Staff will continue to review feedback for possible future opportunities and improvements.

The following programs and services have been provided to GNSA members since October:

Webinars: Between October 2017 and March 1, 2018, two webinars were offered. The table below identifies the Webinar titles and registration numbers.

Title	Registration #
Expanding Clinician’s Understandings of Culturally Congruent Care	74
The Future of Nursing Research: From the NINR Intramural Scientist Perspective	153

In March, the GNSA will offer a three-part series focused on writing a literature review. Also, April will feature a webinar focused on developing student led IPE opportunities. The Leadership Council is also exploring opportunities for webinar topics that should be offered on an annual basis.

Monthly GNSA Bulletin: The bulletin continues to be distributed on the first Wednesday of every month. Features include upcoming events and conferences, resources of interest, opportunities for scholarships and fellowships, and current advocacy information. Staff also is carefully monitoring open rates to understand how GNSA members engage through the Bulletin.

Graduate Nursing Career Network (GNCN): Key positions are highlighted in the Bulletin to bring more GNSA members to engage with this important resource. GNCN continues to include positions for graduate prepared nurses in various settings.

Student Collaboration Community: GNSA Connect continues to be used as a platform to ask questions, engage with other students, and share resources. The discussion topics within GNSA Connect continue to grow with 157 current discussions.

GNSA Liaisons: Currently, there are 120 Liaisons representing AACN member institutions. A priority for the Leadership Council is ensuring that every institution has a GNSA Liaison. In January, AACN offered four town hall calls in order to gather feedback from the GNSA Liaisons. Among the challenges expressed by Liaisons included the difficulty in connecting with students when in online or hybrid courses. Students often feel a disconnect from the school and their fellow students. In addition, Liaisons also requested more opportunities for collaboration between DNP and PhD students.

Social Media: AACN staff works to post continually on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn) and encourage collaboration through these platforms. Social media was also used to help market the GNSA conference and was highly successful.

GNSA Advocacy Leaders: The GNSA Policy Committee is being expanded and will be branded as the GNSA Advocacy Leaders. This group will consist of two representatives from each state as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. This change will allow for more involvement from students giving them a chance to become skilled advocacy leaders, which will allow AACN to maximize its advocacy efforts in relation to nursing education. The group will hold its first introductory conference call in mid-March and will then continue with quarterly conference calls. Members will be featured on the GNSA website.

GNSA Award: The GNSA Leadership Council will offer an award focusing on PhD-DNP collaboration. This award will be developed this spring, and applications will be accepted in late summer/early fall. The purpose of this award is to highlight successful collaborations among PhD and DNP students and allow the winners to serve as exemplars for how institutions can engage in similar efforts.

Marketing: AACN staff continue to market the GNSA directly to faculty and deans. Outreach will focus on deans who will be instrumental in helping to identify student leaders for the many GNSA opportunities. In addition, AACN staff continues to gather data on the student services contacts at each school of nursing, which will further help attract students to the GNSA.