

The Program Committee, led by chair Cynthia McCurren, PhD (Grand Valley State University) last met in person during the 2014 Fall Semiannual Meeting to plan the 2015 Spring Annual Meeting around the theme: *The Dean as Entrepreneur*. The committee will meet again on March 21st to begin planning the 2015 Fall Semiannual Meeting. AACN conference updates are as follows:

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT SERIES (EDS)

Chair: **Catherine Alicia Georges**, EdD, Lehmann College

Setting the Stage for Success

November 19-20, 2014, Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace, Baltimore, MD

March 20-21, 2015, The Fairmont Washington, Washington, DC

This popular series is designed for new and aspiring academic leaders as well as for experienced faculty members who want to improve their leadership skills for a variety of positions within the nursing academic unit. The same program precedes both the Baccalaureate Education Conference and the Spring Annual Meeting. The fall event attracted 100 attendees and was evaluated highly with an overall score of 4.65 on a 5-point scale. General sessions included: Setting the Stage for Success; The Art and Science of Financial Management in Nursing Programs; Welcome to Leadership from Your New Friend, Your Attorney: A Discussion of Faculty and Student Legal Issues; Negotiating at an Uneven Table; Setting the Stage for Success: Tabletop Discussions; and Branding and Imaging for Academic and Leadership Roles. The same program is offered this month (to deans only) prior to the Spring Annual Meeting. As of March 5th, 88 participants have preregistered for the spring version of EDS.

Subcommittee Members: **Jill Winters Berg**, PhD, Columbia College of Nursing; **Shelley Conroy**, EdD, Baylor University; **Anne Hirsch**, PhD, Seattle University; **Janice Hoffman**, PhD, University of Maryland; **Jean Lange**, PhD, Quinnipiac University; and **Linda Scott**, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago

BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Chair: **Cindy Greenberg**, DNSc, California State University-Fullerton

Professional Competency: Putting the Pieces Together

November 20-22, 2014, Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace, Baltimore, MD

This annual conference is devoted to issues of particular interest to baccalaureate and prelicensure nursing educators. The general sessions included: Revolutionizing Nursing Education through New Curriculum Models, Driving Forces, and Digital Initiatives; Outcome Competency Assessment: Lessons Learned from Physical Therapy; National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Update; and Clinical Evaluation: Verifying Competency. Group discussions, poster sessions, and abstract presentations encouraged participants to clarify issues and share successful approaches. A record number of 580 educators attended the conference and gave it an overall score of 4.45 on a 5-point scale. The National Nursing Informatics Deep Dive Pre-Conference and the Instructional Leadership Network (ILN) Meeting took place in conjunction with this main event.

Subcommittee Members: **Larry Goins**, EdD, Methodist University; **Nancy Haugen**, PhD, Samuel Merritt University; **Terran Mathers**, DNS, Spring Hill College; **Maureen Murphy**, PhD, Curry College; **Joanne Noone**, PhD, Oregon Health & Science University; **Julie Sanford**, DNS, James Madison University; and **Monica Scheibmeir**, PhD, Washburn University

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING

DOCTORAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Chair: **William Holzemer**, PhD, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

The Synergy of Scholarship: Research and Practice

January 29-31, 2015, Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, CA

This annual conference brings together deans, associate deans for research, directors of doctoral programs, and other faculty to chart the future of doctoral nursing education. The general/breakout sessions included: Synergy for Research and Practice; AACN Updates: Issues, Outcomes, Challenges, and Future Directions; Getting Funded: What Makes Your Grant Competitive?; Open Forum with the DNP Implementation Task Force; Evaluating Innovations in Nursing Education: Findings from Five Studies on Doctoral Education in Nursing; and Through a Glass, Darkly: Nursing, Big Data, and Creating Knowledge for the Future of Health.

Participants were also encouraged to explore personal interests through concurrent sessions (categorized on the agenda as research, practice, or both), breakfast gatherings, and abstract and poster presentations. Over 697 participated, with attendance hampered by major snowstorms on the East Coast. Participants evaluated the conference favorably, with an overall score of 4.18 on a 5-point scale. Furthermore, 80% of the researched-focused faculty and 91% of the practiced-focused faculty felt the conference met their needs. The Nursing Science and the Research-Focused Doctorate Pre-Conference Workshop, the Faculty Practice Pre-Conference, and the Research Leadership Network (RLN) Meeting took place in conjunction with this main event. Subcommittee Members: **Susan Bulfin**, DNP, Florida Atlantic University; **Lynda Davidson**, PhD, Robert Morris University; **Patricia Howard**, PhD, University of Kentucky; **Nalini Jairath**, PhD, The Catholic University of America; **Katherine Kenny**, DNP, Arizona State University; **Marsha Lewis**, PhD, University at Buffalo – SUNY; **Maridee D. Shogren**, DNP, University of North Dakota; and **Carole Leone White**, PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Chair: **Lin Zhan**, PhD, University of Memphis

Success Strategies for New Faculty

February 12-14, 2015, Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, Nashville, TN

This annual conference is aimed at those new to the faculty role and those who want to gain more self-confidence in teaching in baccalaureate and higher degree programs. In addition to five plenary topics – Transforming Nursing Education; Optimizing the Learning Environment; Enhancing the Academic Work Environment: Focus on the Faculty; Trends and Legal Issues Confronting Nursing Faculty: The Discussion Continues; and Nuts and Bolts for Success in the Faculty Role: Stocking Your Professional Toolkit – attendees selected three concurrent topics from a slate of 12, all offering pragmatic guidance on specifics of classroom and clinical teaching. This event attracted a record number of 232 participants; evaluations are in progress.

Subcommittee Members: **Francesca Armmer**, PhD, Bradley University; **Julie Beck**, DEd, York College of Pennsylvania; **Sandra C. Garmon Bibb**, DNSc, Wichita State University; **Robin E. Remsburg**, PhD, University of North Carolina-Greensboro; **Christie Shelton**, PhD, Jacksonville State University; **Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler**, PhD, University of Nebraska Medical Center; and **Adele A. Webb**, PhD, Chamberlain College of Nursing

MASTER'S EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Chair: **Jean Giddens**, PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University

Future Perspectives for Master's Nursing Education

February 26 – 28, 2015, Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, St. Petersburg, FL

This annual conference addresses issues and concerns of master's programs focused on direct care roles (e.g., CNLs and nurse educators) and indirect care roles (e.g., public health nurses, informaticists, clinical research coordinators, and nurse administrators or managers). General sessions included: The Present State of Master's Education in Nursing; Forward Focused: Opportunities and Imperatives for Master's Prepared Nurses; Why We Need Well-Educated Nurses to Lead the Transformation of Health Care; The DNP by 2015: Findings from the RAND Study on Facilitators and Barriers to the Doctor of Nursing Practice; and Institute of Medicine Update: Where Are We Now? Where Should We Be Going? Multiple opportunities existed for participants to discuss mutual concerns, offer successful strategies, and share successes via discussions, posters, and abstract presentations. Over 319 participants attended and evaluations are in progress.

Subcommittee Members: **Betty Adams**, PhD, Prairie View A&M University; **Lenora R. Campbell**, PhD, Winston Salem State University; **Lillia Loriz**, PhD, University of North Florida; **Cynthia Mailloux**, PhD, Misericordia University; **Helen Melland**, PhD, Montana State University; and **Mary Wickman**, PhD, Vanguard University

HOT ISSUES CONFERENCE

Chair: **Lorraine Frazier**, PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Civility Rising: Re-Envisioning, Re-Creating, and Thriving in Academia and Practice

April 16-18, 2015, Bally's Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

Each biennial conference has a different theme reflecting an issue of most concern at the time to deans and faculty of AACN member schools. Themes to date have included the faculty shortage (2003), faculty development (2005), clinical simulation (2007), and technology (2009, 2011, and 2013). General sessions this year include: Fostering Healthy Work Environments: Powered by Civility and Teamwork; Reaching a Tipping Point: Assessing and Transforming Nursing Workplaces; Best Practices in Nursing Education for the In-Person Classroom; Best Practices for Creating a Civil and Functional Online Classroom; Ethical and Legal Issues with Incivility among Faculty, Students, and Administrators in Nursing Education and Practice; Confronting Incivility: Is There a Bully in Your Workplace?; and Transforming your Environment through Leadership and Self-Empowerment. As of March 5th, 71 participants have preregistered for this event.

Subcommittee Members: **Mary Ellen Glasgow**, PhD, Duquesne University; **Joyce Griffin-Sobel**, PhD, SUNY, Upstate Medical University; **Rosalie Mainous**, PhD, Wright State University; **Gloria J. McNeal**, PhD, National University; **Victoria Niederhauser**, DrPH, University of Tennessee; **Ora Strickland**, PhD, Florida International University; and **Linda Young**, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

SUMMER SEMINAR

Planned by the Program Committee

Reframing the Invitation to Disagree: The Curious Possibility of Creative Conflict Engagement

July 19-22, 2015, Stowflake Mountain Resort, Stowe, VT

Summer Seminar is a popular annual event that allows deans/directors/chairs and senior faculty to explore critical concerns in a setting away from the pressures of daily administration. Themes and topics change each year, addressing nursing higher education issues and providing executive development for aspiring, new, and experienced deans as well as others in academic leadership positions. This year's Summer Seminar is presented by Phyllis Beck Kritek, PhD, RN, FAAN; she draws on over 25 years of experience educating and coaching nurses in conflict engagement.