

President and Chief Executive Officer's Report March 2015

This report updates members on initiatives and activities undertaken by the AACN Board of Directors, CEO Deborah “Deb” Trautman, and staff since the Fall Semiannual Meeting in October 2014. AACN’s priorities are shaped by the organization’s [mission, values, and vision for the profession](#).

MAJOR INITIATIVES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Results of the 2015 AACN Board and Nominating Committee Election

On February 19, AACN announced the results of the 2015 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 23, 2015. Congratulations go to:

- **Treasurer:** Teri Murray, Saint Louis University
- **Board Members-at-Large:** Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Oregon Health & Science University; Greer Glazer, University of Cincinnati; Kristen Swanson, Seattle University; David Vlahov, University of California-San Francisco
- **Nominating Committee:** Jean Giddens, Virginia Commonwealth University; Sarah Thompson, University of Colorado

Expanding AACN’s Health Policy Reach

In January, the AACN Board of Directors approved a plan to position AACN to have a more formidable voice in the health policy arena. Over the last six months, AACN’s Board and staff engaged in a process to evaluate the association’s capacity to direct policy leadership for the profession and specifically academic nursing. This effort included reviewing the association’s current work related to policy initiatives as well as envisioning the desired state for the association. Health policy engagement was defined as advocacy, analysis, and policy leadership development. The Board concluded that the health of the nation could be radically improved by amplifying nursing’s voice in national dialogues about health policy. Working from this framework, the Board approved expanding staff resources and creating opportunities for maximizing policy expertise among the membership. Stay tuned for more details about this plan as new policy initiatives move forward.

Results of RAND Report on the DNP Released

On October 28, 2014, AACN released findings from a national study conducted by the RAND Corporation, which examined the progress made by nursing schools in transitioning to the practice doctorate – a solution advanced 10 years ago to better meet the healthcare needs of the

nation. The report authors found near universal agreement among nurse educators about the value of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in preparing individuals for advanced nursing practice. Though many schools are moving to transition from the master's degree to the doctorate for select nursing roles, some schools are facing barriers to full adoption of the DNP. AACN is fully committed to addressing the issues crafting strategies to overcome barriers. Other key findings included:

- DNP programs – either at the post-baccalaureate (BSN-DNP) or post-master's (MSN-DNP) level – are now offered at more than 250 schools nationwide.
- Though the master's degree remains the dominant route into APRN practice, the educational landscape is changing. About 30% of nursing schools with APRN programs now offer the BSN-DNP; this proportion will climb to more than 50% in a few years.
- The national movement toward offering the BSN-DNP and closing master's level APRN programs is accelerating. Currently, 14% of schools with APRNs programs only offer the BSN-DNP as their entry-level APRN option. An additional 27% of schools with or planning a BSN-DNP intend to close their master's level APRN programs.
- Student demand is strong for all types of programs – BSN-DNP, MSN-DNP, and the MSN – that prepare APRNs.

To access talking points on the RAND study, see www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/Talking-Points.pdf.

AACN Talking Points on Nursing Workforce Projections

In December 2014, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released a report titled *The Future of the Nursing Workforce: National- and State-Level Projections, 2012-2025*, which stated that the U.S. will more than meet the projected demand for Registered Nurses (RNs) over the next 10 years. In addition to finding a distributional imbalance of RNs at the state level, the authors concede that the national projections may be confounded by a number of factors, including the expanding roles for nurses, population growth, and an aging nursing workforce. At the AACN Board meeting in January, President Eileen Breslin asked that talking points be developed to clarify the findings in the HRSA report for AACN's members and other stakeholders. In February, AACN released the talking points that address the HRSA report's principal findings, study limitations, and the need to continue to expand the pipeline into baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs. To access this resource, see <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/HRSA-Nursing-Workforce-Projections.pdf>.

Final Data Released from AACN's Fall 2014 Survey

The final results from AACN's fall 2014 annual survey show that enrollment in all types of professional registered nursing programs increased from 2013 to 2014, including increases in baccalaureate (+4.2%), RN to baccalaureate (+10.4%), master's (+6.6%), PhD (+3.2%), and DNP (+26.2%) programs. The latest data also show that 68,936 qualified applications were turned away from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs last year, including 15,288 applications to graduate nursing programs. The primary barriers to accepting all qualified

students continue to be a shortage of faculty, clinical placement sites, and classroom space. Final survey data is based on information reported from 816 of the 921 nursing schools in the U.S. (88.6% response rate) with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs. Copies of the 2014 survey results are being distributed for free to all schools that contributed data to this report. Additional copies may be ordered from the AACN Web site.

LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

Julie Sebastian Named President of GANES

On December 19, the Global Alliance for Leadership in Nursing Education and Science (GANES) met via conference call and selected new organization officers. AACN President-Elect Julie Sebastian was elected as president for a two-year term. On the call, GANES members discussed the alliance's 2015-2016 strategic plan, which identified the goals and actions for the group to undertake in advancing its mission in the global healthcare environment. Strategic priorities include increasing GANES' membership, creating links with other global nursing organizations, enhancing the visibility of GANES, and organizing a workshop on quality improvement within nursing education and emerging nursing roles.

Alliance for Health Reform Briefing on Graduate Nursing Education (GNE)

On January 21, AACN CEO Deb Trautman participated in a Capitol Hill forum hosted by the Alliance for Health Reform on *Preparing the Nursing Workforce for a Changing Health System: The Role of Graduate Nursing Education*. Panelists, including Dr. Linda Aiken from the University of Pennsylvania, provided insights on current and projected demands for nursing and how federally-financed nursing education programs work to support students seeking advanced degrees, most specifically the GNE demonstration. In her remarks, Deb discussed existing mechanisms for supporting the education of nursing professionals, with a focus on preparing an adequate supply of APRNs. The event was widely attended by congressional and agency staff, and the media. To view the briefing, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4huVqfqyf4>.

CEO Listening Tour

As part of her work to network with AACN members and stakeholders, CEO Deb Trautman has embarked on a national listening tour, which began with the Fall Semiannual Meeting in October. The tour consists of town hall meetings, webinars, and individual meetings with foundation leaders, federal agency heads, and other stakeholders to learn more about member priorities and the latest developments in nursing education, research, practice, and policy. To date, Deb has hosted two national webinars; presented town hall meetings and/or gave remarks at the Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral Education Conferences as well as the CNL Summit; met individually with leaders from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, and The Arnold P. Gold Foundation; met with federal agency leaders including Mary Wakefield (HRSA), Donna Gage (VA), and Patricia Grady (NINR); and made dozens of new connections with national organization leaders. Upcoming listening tour stops are planned for the Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals Meeting in April and the National Student Nurses Association annual convention.

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 10-13, 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 will also provide participants with a valuable and ongoing resource network. Applications are being accepted through May 15, 2015. For more details, see www.aacn.nche.edu/leading-initiatives/aacn-wharton-executive-leadership-program.

Leadership for Academic Nursing Program

Now in its 14th year of operation, 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 3, 2015. The week-long immersion seminar that is foundational to the LANP experience will be held July 26–30 in Albuquerque, NM. 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. New deans/directors 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 Membership Assistant Caitlin Partridge at cpartridge@aacn.nche.edu.

Representation by AACN Leaders and Members at Key Meetings and Events

AACN's President, Board members, CEO, and deans represent the interests of 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 2014:

- On November 21-22, AACN President Eileen Breslin and CEO Deb Trautman attended the annual meeting of the Nursing Organization Alliance in Tampa, FL. The alliance includes members from more than 70 national nursing groups.
- On December 9, Deb Trautman joined with the other national health profession leaders from the Interprofessional Education Consortium (IPEC) for a strategic planning retreat in Middleburg, VA.
- On December 10-11, Deb Trautman and leaders from approximately 20 member organizations with the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP) met for an annual retreat, which was also held in Middleburg, VA.
- On January 2, Deb Trautman was invited to tour Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas along with representatives from a select group of national health profession organizations. The tour included a visit to the Army's flagship hospital and trauma center as well as the Center for the Intrepid rehabilitation center.
- On January 14, Deb Trautman met with leaders from Alabama's VA Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP), including representatives from the Birmingham Veteran Affairs Medical Center and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing.
- On February 25-26, Deb Trautman presented at the national Evaluating Innovations in Nursing Education grantees meeting in Philadelphia, PA, which was sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- On March 6, Eileen Breslin and Deb Trautman attended the annual National Nursing Research Roundtable meeting in Bethesda, MD. Eileen Sullivan-Marx, dean of the nursing school at New York University, gave the keynote address.
- On March 17, Deb Trautman gave remarks at a press conference in New York, which announced the creation of a new graduate nursing school through a partnership involving Hofstra University and the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.
- On March 18, Deb Trautman attended the Board meeting of the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing in Washington, DC.

FACULTY AND STUDENT RESOURCES

AACN Extends Partnership with Khan Academy and the Jonas Center

On December 4, AACN, the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, and Khan Academy announced the continuation of a ground-breaking partnership to produce innovative, online healthcare content for a global audience of faculty, students, practitioners, and consumers. Building on last year's success, plans are underway to develop an expansive catalog of healthcare videos that can be used by nursing students preparing to sit for the NCLEX-RN®. With guidance provided by expert AACN faculty reviewers and Khan Academy, 277 NCLEX-RN videos have been produced through this collaboration, which have received 10.5 million views, and 320 NCLEX questions have been created, which have been completed 500,000 times. To access these free resources, see www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/NCLEX-RN.

Your Input Needed! To assess how well the Khan Academy resources are being used by nursing school faculty and students, we encourage you to complete a brief, two-minute survey

found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q9XB296>. The deadline to complete the survey is Monday, March 30, 2015.

AACN Partners on Learning Collaborative for Adolescent SBIRT in Nursing Education

AACN recently announced a partnership with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and the Center for Clinical Social Work (CCSW) to engage nursing and social work schools in a learning collaborative funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The focus of the initiative is to develop and evaluate interactive, competency-based substance use screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) learning materials and curriculum. This learning collaborative will consist of a wide variety of nursing and social work schools that take an active role in shaping the development of the SBIRT curriculum. AACN is currently seeking faculty to assist with this work, which comes with an opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funding to pilot the adolescent SBIRT curriculum in existing undergraduate and graduate curricula. Those interested in finding out more are encouraged to contact Joan Stanley, AACN's Senior Director of Education Policy, at jstanley@aacn.nche.edu. For more information, visit <http://sbirt.webs.com>.

Membership in the GNSA Surpasses 12,000 Students

In February, the Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA) reached an important milestone with more than 12,000 students from 508 schools across the country now enrolled in the GNSA. Launched in August 2012, the GNSA provides high-value programs, resources, and services to meet the professional development needs of graduate nursing students. The GNSA Leadership Council, which is composed of 10 students from AACN member schools, 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.

Sixth Annual AACN Student Policy Summit

In response to the high level of interest in AACN's annual Student Policy Summit (SPS), registration capacity was expanded by more than 40% to accommodate 195 undergraduate and graduate students at this year's event, being held March 22-24. Even at this new level, registration sold out in a matter of days. The SPS brings together 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 departments and agencies, as well as the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and their staff to discuss issues relating to health policy.

Jonas Center and AACN Expand Support for Doctoral Students

Since 2012, AACN has partnered with the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare (formerly the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence) to enhance the nation's supply of doctorally prepared nurses available to serve in faculty and clinical roles. In January 2014, the Jonas Center made a determination on the number of scholarships to be awarded for the Nurse Leaders and the Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar programs. A total of 328 individual scholars were awarded among 116 institutions. These recipients include 146 PhD Nurse Leader Scholars, 69 DNP Nurse Leader Scholars, 45 PhD Veteran Healthcare Scholars, and 68 DNP Veteran Healthcare Scholars. The scholars are currently working on their leadership projects, which will be presented at the Jonas Scholar Leadership Conference in October 2015.

Winners of AACN's Dissertation and DNP Final Project Awards

Last year, AACN created a new awards program to recognize outstanding dissertations and capstone projects completed by students in research- and practice-focused doctoral programs. With 45 completed applications received for these top honors, awards were presented at AACN's annual Doctoral Education Conference in January 2015. This year's recipients include:

Excellence in Advancing Nursing Science Award (PhD)

- Dr. Kathryn (Kim) Friddle, University of Utah, *Retinopathy of Prematurity: The Effects of Oxygen Saturation Targets in At-Risk Neonates*
- Honorable Mentions: Qiaohong Guo, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *A Preliminary Model of Dignity Management in Hospice*; and Angela Smith Lillehei, University of Minnesota, *Effects of Lavender Aromatherapy via Inhalation and Sleep Hygiene on Sleep in College Students with Self-reported Sleep Issues*

Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice Award (DNP)

- Jessica Kozlowski, Brandman University, *Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Management of Child Anxiety in the Rural Primary Care Clinic*
- Honorable Mention: Kathryn Evans Kreider, Duke University, *Implementation and Evaluation of an Evidence-Based Protocol to Treat Diabetic Ketoacidosis*

Abstracts from the winners are posted at www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/awards/winners-dissertation-and-capstone-project-awards. Deadline to submit 2016 nominations is September 16, 2015. 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 5, 2015. With awards issued in the fall, winners may choose one AACN conference to

attend during the 2015-2016 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.

Faculty Policy Intensive Award Winners Announced

AACN is proud to announce that eight nurse educators have been selected from a pool of highly competitive applicants to participate in the 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI). Offered in conjunction with the Spring Meeting, the FPI is a four-day faculty immersion experience designed to expand on existing knowledge and create leaders in healthcare policy. AACN is bringing these leaders to Washington, D.C. to hone their advocacy skills so they can further advance the contributions of the profession at the local, state, and national levels. This year's FPI participants include:

- Jane Campbell, Northern Michigan University
- Patsy Cornelius, University of Arkansas Fort Smith
- Amanda Fallin, University of Kentucky
- Eileen Fry-Bowers, Loma Linda University
- Mai Kung, Florida State University
- David LaFevers, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Janice Miller, Thomas Jefferson University
- Suzanne Staebler, Emory University

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

New AACN Award Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Sustainability

At its October 2014 meeting, the AACN Board of Directors created a new honor titled Diversity, Inclusion, and Sustainability in Nursing Education Lectureship Award, which is funded by Nurse.com and the Gannett Foundation. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions made by an individual or a group that champion diversity, inclusion, and/or sustainability in the academic nursing environment. Nominees must demonstrate that they have made an impact in one or more of the following ways: influencing others, role modeling, continual learning, cultivating diverse teams, risk taking, accountability for diversity and inclusion, and/or external leadership engagement. This award will be presented for the first time at the Spring Annual Meeting on March 25 to Marilyn (Marty) Douglas from the University of California-San Francisco for her work on raising cultural competency. For more information about award criteria and the simple nomination process, see www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/awards/gannett.

NCIN Grants Help Schools Replicate and Sustain Scholarship Program

In November, AACN announced that 12 higher education institutions received grants to share and build upon the lessons learned through the New Careers in Nursing (NCIN). NCIN was created 8 years ago by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AACN to increase the diversity

of the nursing workforce by providing scholarships to people from groups underrepresented in nursing to complete accelerated baccalaureate or master's degrees. With an eye toward sustaining NCIN program successes, two grant programs—Innovations in Accelerated Nursing Education and the Legacy Program—were created to fund teams from nursing schools that have received NCIN grants. For a listing of funded schools and their funded projects, see www.newcareersinnursing.org/news/2014/november/09/legacy-and-innovation-grants-announced.

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 to the Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars Program 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 United States. 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 fall 2015. Applications must be received by May 1, 2015.

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) have initiated the Doctoral Advancement in Nursing (DAN) Project. DAN's expert committee is developing 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. The planning committee has reviewed models of existing programs and innovative strategies in nursing education, which are summarized in a white paper outlining best practices related to student success in doctoral studies. The pilot phase of the project was started in fall 2013 with a goal of 25 mentors and 50 mentees to test the program design. This goal was recently achieved, and the mentoring connections remain active. To date, 6 students have enrolled in doctoral programs, and 12 have applied to doctoral programs, including 5 to PhD and 7 to DNP programs.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

Nurses on Boards Coalition

In November, AACN announced that it was a founding member of the Nurses on Boards Coalition, a group of national nursing organizations working together to increase nurses' presence on corporate and non-profit health-related boards of directors throughout the country. The coalition is developing a national strategy to bring nurses' perspective to governing boards, as well as state-level and national commissions with an interest in health. The goal is to put 10,000 nurses on boards by the year 2020. The effort was launched in response to the IOM's report on *The Future of Nursing*, which recommended nurses play more pivotal roles on boards

and commissions in improving the health of all Americans. The effort is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP through the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action.

Tri-Council for Nursing

On February 10, the leadership of the Tri-Council organizations – AACN, ANA, AONE, and NLN – met at the headquarters of the ANA in Silver Spring, MD. ANA is serving as the convener of the Tri-Council in 2015. President Eileen Breslin, President-Elect Julie Sebastian, and CEO Deb Trautman represented AACN at this meeting. The proceedings commenced with a review of the Tri-Council’s operating principles, guidelines, and mission, which led to the creation of a small task force to review these documents for relevancy. As part of the agenda, the Tri-Council approved the framing paper on *Interstate Practice, Education, and Licensure Changing Practice, Evolving Regulation*. This document outlines a plan for moving forward with a regulatory model that ensures patient safety, facilitates mobility, and fosters evolution in nursing practice. In addition, government affairs staff from each organization updated the Tri-Council on the appropriations outlook for the 114th Congress, which looks challenging in terms of funding for Title VIII and other programs benefitting nursing education.

AACN and CDC Award Impact Evaluation Projects

In December, AACN and the CDC announced the awardees for three evaluation projects to increase the evidence related to the impact of academic/practice partnerships in public/population health. Offered through the AACN-CDC Academic Partnership Project, this second round of small grants are intended to support primary and secondary data analysis focused on the impacts of selected interventions undertaken as part of an existing partnership involving an academic partner together with a public health or population health focused community partner and/or a local health department. The successful applicants for this second round of funding are Emory University, Indiana University, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. See www.aacn.nche.edu/public-health-nursing.

Gold Foundation Gala Sponsorship

On November 17, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation held their annual “Golden Thread” gala and fundraiser in New York City. As a cosponsor along with the Association of American Medical Colleges and other groups, AACN hosted a table at the event and welcomed several member deans, staff, and Board member Harriet Feldman as invited guests. Honorees at the gala included the foundation’s founders Arnold and Sandra Gold, the family of country singer Glenn Campbell (who have made a documentary on surviving with Alzheimer’s disease), and the Russell Berrie Foundation whose work focuses on advancing compassionate care and related research. The Golden Thread Gala raised over \$900,000 for the foundation.

Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC)

IPEC – whose member organizations 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 and Programs of Public Health – will present two faculty development conferences in 2015. The focus of the first conference, scheduled for April 29-May 1, is on *Building Interprofessional Education for Population Health*. The second conference will have a more general focus on *Building a Framework for Interprofessional Education* and is planned for October 7-9. The IPEC principals are currently in discussion about offering leadership development programming focused on IPE that would be targeted to deans versus faculty. For more details on IPEC activities, see www.ipecollaboratice.org.

PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW RESOURCES

Data on New Nurse Graduates and Employers Preferences

In November 2014, 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 56% for BSN students, with the employment rate at 4-6 months after graduation rising to 87%. By comparison, the National Association of Colleges and Employers conducted a national survey of 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 (67%) and at 4-6 months post-graduation (90%) 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 45.1% of employers require the BSN for new hires while 79.6% strongly prefer BSN-prepared nurses. See www.aacn.nche.edu/leading_initiatives_news/news/2014/employment14.

2014 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 insufficient funding for faculty, a limited pool of doctorally prepared nurses, and noncompetitive faculty salaries. Based on data from 714 U.S. nursing schools with baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs (80.0% response rate), the full-time faculty vacancy rate in 2014 was 6.9%. Most of the reported vacancies (89.6%) 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 (61.3%) and an inability to recruit qualified applicants due to job competition (31.5%) and a lack of faculty with the required specialty expertise (25.0%). See www.aacn.nche.edu/leading-initiatives/research-data/vacancy14.pdf.

ELNEC Celebrates 15th Anniversary in 2015

In 2015, the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) will be celebrating 15 years of promoting palliative care and education to enhance patient care across settings. To date, almost 20,000 nurses and other healthcare professionals have attended one of 160 national/international ELNEC train-the-trainer courses, representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 85 countries worldwide. ELNEC was launched in 2000 as a partnership

between AACN and the City of Hope Medical Center with the goal of developing a national education initiative to improve palliative care. Over the past 15 years, the project has provided undergraduate and graduate nursing faculty, continuing education providers, staff development educators, and nurses specializing in pediatrics, oncology, critical care and geriatrics with state-of-the art education in palliative care as well as teaching tools to reach a wider audience of nursing students and practicing nurses. For more details, see www.aacn.nche.edu/news/articles/2015/elnec.

Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Visionary and Vanguard Awards

At the CNL Summit in January, AACN announced that Nancy Hilton, Chief Nursing Officer from St. Lucie Medical Center in Florida (part of the HCA health system), was the recipient of the 2015 CNL Visionary Leader Award. This recognition 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, AACN and the Commission on Nurse Certification jointly presented the CNL Vanguard Awards, which recognize the innovative work of CNL-certified nurses and CNL nurse educators. These awards were presented to Luran Hardin from Mercy Health Saint Mary's in Grand Rapids, MI and Dr. Linda Roussel from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. For more information, see www.aacn.nche.edu/news/articles/2015/cnl-awards.

NursingCAS Open House and Enrollment Management Workshop in June

Nursing's centralized application service – NursingCAS – is hosting its annual Open House and Enrollment Management Workshop at Simmons College in Boston, MA on June 11-12. Deans, admissions professionals, IT staff, nursing school recruiters, and other decision-makers are invited to join us for this free event and enjoy program sessions spotlighting best practices in enrollment management, holistic admissions, and ensuring a positive return on investment using NursingCAS. The keynote speaker for this event is Dr. William Sedlacek, Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Maryland, a recognized expert on non-cognitive assessment and holistic admissions. Attendees may also go on an operations tour of the NursingCAS headquarters to receive a first-hand look at the transcript and application verification process. Register now at www.aacn.nche.edu/nursingcas/rsvp/openhouse.

AACN Leadership Networks

To date, more than 1,400 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 Phoenix, AZ on April 7-8; Hot Issues Conference in Las Vegas, NV on April 16-18; Nursing Advancement Professionals Conference in San Antonio, TX on April 16-18; Business Officers of Nursing Schools Network Meeting in San Diego, CA on April 22-24; Summer Seminar in Stowe, VT on July 19-22; and the Fall Semiannual Meeting in Washington, DC on October 24-27. For more details on upcoming conferences, see www.aacn.nche.edu/conferences.

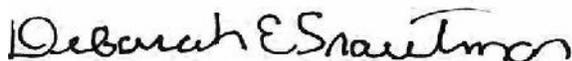
Welcome to New Staff Members

Since the Fall Semiannual Meeting, AACN welcomed several new staff members, including: **Chris Tracy** in the new role of Senior Policy Analyst; **Meg Thurgood** in the new role of Associate Director for Marketing; **Brandon Azevedo** as Government Affairs Assistant; **Ivy Charneski** as Accounting and Conference Assistant; and **Shyloe Jones** as Education Policy Assistant. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) also welcomed new staff members, including **Nicholas Battiste** as CCNE Administrative Assistant and **Renee Ricci** as CCNE Accreditation Assistant.

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



Eileen T. Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN
President



Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN
Chief Executive Officer