



Futures Task Force March 2015

Given the significant changes underway in the U.S. healthcare system and the new practice expectations for nurses, AACN established the Futures Task Force to reassess our organizational priorities and make recommendations for the future work of AACN. The final report of the task force will be issued in June 2015.

The work of the first Futures Task Force was completed in 2000 with recommendations to expand AACN's programming to include all representatives of the nursing academic unit, the establishment of the Leadership Networks, and major initiatives for faculty and graduate students. AACN has seen significant growth since the 2000 report. Membership has increased 37% from 547 members in 2000 to 750 members today. There are now seven robust Leadership Networks representing over 1,500 faculty and staff from schools of nursing. In addition, AACN reaches more than 30,000 faculty members through free online webinars, monthly newsletters, and the Online Collaboration Community. The Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA) represents over 11,000 graduate nursing students. AACN has also seen significant organizational growth since 2000 including a 157% increase in staff from 21 to 54 staff members and expanded administrative operations to accommodate a 255% operational budget increase.

Futures Task Force Charge

In order to ensure that AACN is well-positioned to meet the emerging needs of member schools in this time of rapid change for the health professions, the AACN Board of Directors created the current Futures Task Force to:

1. Conduct a broad assessment of the major trends shaping nursing practice and the implications for the transformation of nursing education and research. The task force should seek input from a broad base of constituents, both internal and external to AACN.
2. Conduct an assessment of current AACN programs and structures and their capacity to respond to the challenges identified.
3. Provide the AACN Board with a set of recommendations regarding potential new efforts that can be implemented to support the mission of the organization and assure support for the development of a nursing workforce for the future.

Futures Task Force Meetings

The Futures Task Force meets monthly via conference call. The first in-person meeting took place May 8-9, 2014 in Washington, DC, and Board strategic planning expert Josh Mintz served as facilitator for the meeting. The second in-person meeting took place October 28-29, 2014 immediately following the Fall Semiannual Meeting. The last in-person meeting is scheduled for March 23-24 following the AACN Spring Annual Meeting.

Feedback Themes

The feedback received has been extensive and will be very helpful as the Task Force works to develop the final report. These have been organized under the following categories:

- Education Issues and Innovations
- Leadership Development
- Faculty Development
- Standards to Differentiate Nursing BSN
- CCNE/Accreditation Issues
- Faculty Shortage
- Representation of all AACN Membership Constituents
- Diversity
- Regulatory Issues
- Academic-Practice Partnerships
- Research Needs
- Promoting the Profession of Nursing
- International Engagement
- Nursing as a STEM discipline and Morale Courage
- Communications
- Other

Membership Feedback Opportunities

The AACN membership has been provided with numerous opportunities to provide feedback including the following:

- Fall Semiannual Meeting – Task Force Update - Sunday, October 26, 9:00-10:00 am
- Fall Semiannual Meeting – Like-Schools Discussion Groups - Sunday, October 26, 10:15 am-12:00 noon
- Baccalaureate Education Conference (November 20-22, 2014)
Informal Breakfast Discussion - Friday, November 21, 7:15-8:15 am
- Doctoral Education Conference (January 29-31, 2015)
Informal Breakfast Discussion - Friday, January 30, 7:30-8:20 am
- Faculty Development Conference (February 12-14, 2015)
Informal Discussion – Friday, February 13
- Masters Education Conference (February 26-28, 2015)
Informal Discussion - Friday, February 27
- Town Hall Meetings with new CEO (taking place during all AACN conferences)
- December 2, 2014 and February 26, 2015 – Feedback Webinars
- November 2014-February 2015 – A broad range of constituents including members, faculty and students, and other stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input.
- Spring Annual Meeting, March 21-24, 2015 – Task Force Update – March 23
- Futures Task Force Web Page and Online Feedback Form -
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/leading-initiatives/future-task-force>

For a listing of task force members, see <https://www.aacn.nche.edu/about-aacn/committees-task-force/futures-task-force>.