



American Association
of Colleges of Nursing

Report on the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium Project (ELNEC) March 2015

The ELNEC project continues to grow with 15 national and 4 international courses offered this year. Since the first national train-the-trainer program was offered in 2001, over 19,500 people have attended an ELNEC course. Though ELNEC was written by nurses and for nurses, other members of the interprofessional team have benefitted from this unique educational opportunity, including physicians, social workers, pharmacists, and chaplains. ELNEC has been presented in 85 countries around the world, and its curriculum has been translated in 8 languages—Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, German, Romanian, and Albanian.

In 2015, national ELNEC train-the-trainer courses are planned for Anaheim, CA; Scottsdale, AZ; St. Louis, MO; Atlanta, GA; Kona, HI; Houston, TX; and Washington, DC. International ELNEC courses will be held in China, Kenya, Albania, and Austria (for Ukrainian and Armenian nurses and physicians). The first course of the year held in Anaheim reached 276 nurses and other healthcare professionals.

ELNEC Turns 15 in 2015!

This year, ELNEC is celebrating 15 years as a model partnership (AACN and City of Hope) and nurse-led initiative for enhancing palliative care worldwide. Initially funded for three years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ELNEC has been able to continue its work with funding provided by a broad array of supporters, including AACN, Aetna Foundation, Archstone Foundation, Cambia Health Foundation, California HealthCare Foundation, Milbank Foundation for Rehabilitation, National Cancer Institute, Oncology Nursing Foundation, Open Society, and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. With over 160 courses held to date, project leaders estimate that since its inception, ELNEC trainers have returned to their home institutions and communities and trained over 500,000 nurses and other healthcare providers.

New Report Showcases the Extent of ELNEC Curricula Dissemination

Recently, the ELNEC Project Office at AACN compiled a report on the reach of ELNEC trainers in educating others. Data from notification forms that trainers must submit before offering a course showed that in 2014 alone, 250 regional and international courses were held in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and 7 international countries (Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam). This report showcased the reach of ELNEC trainers in disseminating and implementing ELNEC in their workplaces, as well as in their communities. Project staff estimate that over 7,500 healthcare professionals received ELNEC instruction from these trainers in 2014 alone.

Palliative Care Courses for DNP Faculty and Practitioners

An R-25 grant from the National Cancer Institute, titled *Integrating Palliative Oncology Care into Doctor of Nursing Practice Education and Clinical Practice*, has provided funding for 85 faculty in schools of nursing with a DNP program, as well as DNP-prepared practitioners, to

attend a two-day train-the-trainer course. Resources from the course can be used to embed palliative care and oncology content into existing DNP curricula and to provide current evidence-based policies/procedures and standards of care to clinicians. The third of four funded courses will be held June 29-30, 2015 in St. Louis, MO.

ELNEC and AACN Cited in Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report

On September 19, 2014, the IOM released a report titled *Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life*. While the report stressed many ways to improve palliative care in the United States, it specifically mentioned ELNEC as an example of a successful educational project and highlighted AACN's commitment to this work.

International Opportunities

The national ELNEC Project Team is grateful for the \$20,000 the AACN Board of Directors provided to assist with ELNEC-International projects. The funds were to be used in Liberia to teach faculty in schools of nursing, as well as practicing nurses. Due to the Ebola outbreak in that nation, this course was postponed. The AACN funding will be used in May 2015 in Kip Karen, Kenya to educate nurses and other palliative care team members. Physicians and nurses from Swaziland and Ethiopia are planning to attend the training in Kenya.

Publications

The following publications articles have been or will be published this year, which describe the work of ELNEC-International and ELNEC-For Veterans:

Ferrell, B., Malloy, P., & Virani, R. (2015). The End-of-life Nursing Education Consortium project. *Annals of Palliative Medicine*. (Accepted for publication March 5, 2015).

Gabriel, M.S., Malloy, P., Wilson, L., Virani, R., Jones, D., Luhrs, C., & Shreve, S. (2015). End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC)–For Veterans: An Educational Project to Improve Care for All Veterans With Serious, Complex Illness. *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing*, 17(1), 40-47.
doi: 10.1097/NJH.0000000000000121