

Board Chair and President/CEO Report October 2017

This report updates members on the strategic initiatives and activities undertaken by the AACN Board of Directors and staff since the Spring Annual Meeting in March 2017. AACN's priorities are shaped by the organization's [mission, values, and vision for the profession](#).

MAJOR INITIATIVES AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

AACN Moves its Headquarters Office

Following more than 30 years at its Dupont Circle location, AACN officially moved its headquarters office to 655 K Street, NW in Washington, DC on August 14. At its new home base, AACN is now co-located with peer associations representing medicine, dentistry, physician assistant education, and veterinary medicine. In a press statement, Board Chair Juliann Sebastian said: "The new office space is particularly appealing, as this address has become the nation's most visible hub for interprofessional health profession education and collaborative practice. Relocating to this building will better position AACN to meet the needs of our 810 member schools of nursing and accommodate our expanding programs, services, and professional staff." AACN is planning an Open House on Monday, October 30 from 5:30-7pm to allow members attending the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference to visit the new space. In addition to the office move, AACN also has launched its new website at www.aacnnursing.org.

Five Task Forces Move to Fulfill Charges

Last year, the AACN Board of Directors created five task forces to focus on key issues impacting the association and academic nursing at large. A total of 54 member deans, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders are now advancing the work of the task forces, which are focused on these priority areas:

- **AACN's Vision for Nursing Education**
- **Defining Scholarship for Academic Nursing**
- **Academic Progression in Nursing**
- **AACN Governance**
- **Preferred Vision of the Professoriate**

Members will receive updates from the task forces on Monday, October 30 at 8am. The position statement drafted by the Preferred Vision of the Professoriate Task Force is coming forward for a vote by the members at the Business Meeting to be held later that morning.

AACN's Top Leaders Advocate for Academic Nursing

Earlier this fall, two of AACN's top leaders represented academic nursing on the national stage:

- AACN Board Chair Juliann Sebastian appeared before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Health Subcommittee on September 14 at a hearing titled, “Supporting Tomorrow’s Health Providers: Examining Workforce Programs Under the Public Health Service Act.” Dr. Sebastian testified in support of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017. She urged the subcommittee to pass the bill to ensure the future sustainability of the Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Read Dr. Sebastian’s full testimony [here](#).
- On September 7, AACN Board Chair-Elect Ann Cary participated as an invited panelist at the 2017 National Health Research Forum. Organized by Research!America, the forum was held in Washington, DC. The forum sparks stimulating conversations among top leaders in government, industry, patient advocacy, and academia regarding current issues that could impact the trajectory of medical and health research and innovation. Dr. Cary represented academic nursing on the panel. View the [video](#) of the full panel discussion.

AACN Moves to Redesign its Leadership Development Programs

On September 11, AACN issued a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) seeking assistance to redesign its portfolio of leadership development programs. In 2015, AACN’s Board of Directors voted to develop a plan to re-conceptualize AACN’s current leadership development initiatives and to ultimately expand the target groups – to include AACN membership as well as other health disciplines – for whom interprofessional leadership competencies can be developed. The Board advanced a two-step process for the design and delivery of a unified leadership product line whereby the request for proposal for the design was separate from the latest RFP for delivery. The design RFP was awarded in 2016, and a finished product design was delivered to the Board in January 2017. The new design incorporates existing AACN leadership development programming while expanding in scope, audience, format, and curricula. The RFP issued in September focused on delivery, and proposals were expected to outline an overall plan for implementation, curricular design, leadership products, timelines, and evaluation. The Leadership Development Advisory Group is currently reviewing the proposals received.

Gold Foundation Renews Commitment to Funding White Coat Ceremonies

In May, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and AACN announced that new funding was available to nursing schools interested in initiating a White Coat Ceremony in Fall 2017. Developed to champion scientifically sound, compassionate care, the Gold-AACN White Coat Ceremony for Nursing is held at the beginning of an academic year to promote the importance of humanistic, patient-centered care. To date, the partnering organizations have provided funding and technical support to introduce White Coat Ceremonies at 210 nursing schools nationwide. This year, AACN identified 50 new schools interested in implementing a Gold-AACN White Coat Ceremony for new nursing students. Participating schools will receive financial support to host a ceremony, which typically features the recitation of an oath, receipt of a commemorative pin, an address by an eminent role model, and a reception for students and invited guests. [View a list of schools](#) selected to receive funding for their White Coat Ceremonies this year.

AACN Expands Partnership to Facilitate the Clinical Education of Nurses

AACN and CastleBranch just announced a new partnership that can provide schools of nursing nationwide with an online platform designed to facilitate the clinical education of nurses and ensure quality outcomes. Through this initiative, nursing schools affiliated with AACN can gain access to CB Bridges, which is designed to streamline each phase of a student’s clinical journey from compliance tracking, clinical placements and scheduling, site orientation, skills assessment, and evaluation. Since 2005, CastleBranch has partnered with AACN to offer discounted student background screenings, drug screenings, and compliance tracking solutions. To date, more than 60% of AACN member schools are finding value in centralizing and streamlining the management of these services. To further serve our members, CastleBranch has developed CB Bridges to expertly manage the full scope of the student clinical rotation process. AACN is committed and excited to deliver CB Bridges, which is now available to affiliated schools at a reduced rate. Click [here](#) to learn more.

ELNEC Celebrates 200th Course

In September 2017, the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC), a partnership between AACN and City of Hope, celebrated its 200th course in Minneapolis, MN. Since its inception in 2000, ELNEC has been committed to providing educational resources and train-the-trainer courses for nurses in an effort to advance palliative care for those with serious illness. Currently, ELNEC provides courses for undergraduate and graduate nursing faculty, continuing education providers, staff development educators, and specialty nurses in pediatrics, oncology, critical care and geriatrics. Today, over 21,700 nurses and other healthcare professionals have attended one of these 200 national/international courses. ELNEC has been presented in 91 countries and the curriculum has been translated into eight languages.

AACN Supports Position Statement on Substance Use

At its July 2017 meeting, the AACN Board of Directors [endorsed](#) the joint position statement issued by the Emergency Nurses Association and the International Nurses Society on Addictions on [Substance Use Among Nurses and Nursing Students](#). The Board agreed that this statement is important to share with all stakeholders within academic nursing, including nursing school deans/directors, faculty, staff, and students. At the meeting, the Board also agreed to establish a definition of “endorsement” that reads as follows: *AACN may endorse statements/ documents that have been developed by other organizations for the purpose of expressing support for the intent of the statements/documents. Statements/documents that may be endorsed by AACN include but are not limited to those that align with the AACN mission, vision, or strategic plan. Endorsement by AACN in no way obligates AACN or its member organizations to use or mandate use of the statements/documents or to disseminate them to the public.*

AACN and NIDA Issue New Call for Proposals on Substance Use Disorder Treatment

In early October, AACN announced that the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Blending Initiative: Moving Science from Research to Practice will award up to \$10,000 for a project grant from a graduate student (master’s, doctoral, or post-doctoral) from an accredited program at an AACN member school. This grant is intended to support projects that contribute to a student’s

knowledge of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and advance research, dissemination, and adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment. Proposals are due January 15, 2018. Awards will be announced on January 31, 2018. Click [here](#) to apply for funding.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

AACN Board Creates Diversity and Inclusion Committee

To advance AACN's mission and impact, the AACN Board of Directors created a new Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which commenced its work on July 1. The committee is chaired by Dr. Edilma Yearwood from the School of Nursing & Health Studies at Georgetown University and features representatives from all types of nursing schools and from practice. The committee serves as an expert resource whose members will help to shape programs and initiatives related to AACN's strategic goal to serve as a primary advocate for advancing diversity and inclusion within academic nursing.

Holistic Review Grants Awarded by HRSA

Last September, AACN announced that it would provide a technical assistance program for member schools seeking funding through the Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) program offered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To receive funding, applicants were required to establish a formal agreement with a health professions organization to provide staff training related to Holistic Admissions Review. In response to the HRSA program announcement, AACN moved quickly to develop a structured NWD Technical Assistance Program that features an assessment of admissions practices, an on-site Holistic Admissions Review workshop, student recruitment and retention strategies, and models for building a successful mentoring program. In late June, AACN began hearing from funded schools looking to establish an agreement with AACN. A total of 28 out of 31 grant recipients have executed contracts with AACN to complete the required training, and four training sessions have already been completed. Dr. Vernell DeWitty, AACN's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and her staff are collaborating with funded schools to commence the training and satisfy grant requirements. For more details including a list of funded schools, click [here](#).

Position Statement on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Academic Nursing

At AACN's Spring Annual Meeting on March 20, 2017, AACN's members voted to adopt the Position Statement on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Academic Nursing. In this statement:

AACN recognizes diversity, inclusion, and equity as critical to nursing education and fundamental to developing a nursing workforce able to provide high quality, culturally appropriate, and congruent health care in partnership with individuals, families, communities, and populations. AACN is committed to preparing a community of scholars, clinicians, educators, and leaders who fully value the importance of diversity, inclusion, and equity to promote the health of the nation and the world. AACN will advocate for advancing diversity, inclusion, and equity in nursing through its public policy initiatives and in its regulatory advocacy, in collaboration with the Tri-Council for Nursing and other health professions

The statement is available online at www.aacnnursing.org/News-Information/Position-Statements-White-Papers/Diversity.

AACN Engages an International Audience

- The Global Alliance for Leadership in Nursing Education and Science (GANES) serves as the international voice on the contributions made by professional nursing education and scholarship toward improving global health and health care. Leaders with GANES hosted the third international conference in Miami, FL on April 2-4 with sessions reflecting the theme *Catalyzing Nursing Education and Scholarship for Global Health*. Plenary speakers included ICN President Frances Hughes and ELNEC Principal Investigator Betty Ferrell. Almost 150 academic leaders, nursing faculty, clinical researchers, representatives from health and education ministries, and professional nursing association staff attended this meeting, which provided opportunities to exchange ideas, knowledge, and research related to the conference theme. The conference was rated highly by attendees.
- The International Council of Nurses (ICN) held its 2017 Congress on May 27-June 1 in Barcelona, Spain, and attracted more than 8,000 nurse leaders from around the world. AACN was represented at this event by Board Chair Juliann Sebastian, Board Chair-Elect Ann Cary, and President/CEO Deb Trautman. To enhance AACN's presence at ICN, the association joined with AONE and the ANA to host a welcoming reception for members of these respective organizations on Sunday, May 28. Dozens of AACN member deans and faculty attended the reception along with a host of clinical leaders, association heads, international colleagues, and other special guests.

LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

AACN Urges Congress to Find Legislative Solution for DACA “Dreamers”

On September 13, 2017, AACN joined over 75 national associations in sending a letter to Congressional leadership urging permanent, legislative action to address protection for individuals who are registered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an Executive Order established in 2012. On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced the White House's decision to rescind DACA, and stated that Congress will have a six-month window of time to come up with a solution to prevent the over 800,000 DACA individuals from facing deportation. AACN is concerned with the fate of these young adults who came to the United States as children. Many of these individuals are enrolled in institutions of higher education, enlisted in our military, and are contributing to the economy. AACN will continue to actively engage as it relates to our member institutions.

Thought Leadership Assembly Focuses on Healthcare in 2040

On July 22, AACN hosted its second Thought Leaders Assembly (TLA) in conjunction with the Summer Seminar in Breckenridge, CO. The TLA was created as an opportunity to engage the AACN Board, members, guests, experts, and senior staff in conversation on a topic of great interest to nursing leaders. The 2017 Thought Leaders Assembly, *Healthcare in 2040: Match or Mismatch in Supply and Demand*, focused on the association's continual quest to assist our

membership in developing the academic enterprise for the 21st century. This conversation sought to investigate what is the demand for nurses in the community, how the healthcare system is seeking to recruit and retain the nurse of the future, and what innovations could provide insight to AACN as educators. Together, the speakers, panelists, and invited guests began to contemplate and answer the question: What does healthcare and nursing look like in 2040? A summary of the discussion is attached to this report.

New Graduates from AACN's Leadership Programs Announced

In August, AACN announced the sixth class of nursing deans who have successfully completed the **AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program**. Launched in collaboration with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, this world-class enrichment experience is designed for top academic leaders in schools of nursing. This groundbreaking program has now graduated 192 Fellows from 44 states. Using a competitive process, 30 academic nursing leaders were selected this year to participate in the AACN-Wharton program, which convened in Philadelphia, PA on August 7-10, 2017.

Now in its 16th year, AACN's prestigious **Leadership for Academic Nursing Program (LANP)** was created to prepare future deans and other top academic administrators. This structured experience includes an assessment and evaluation of leadership skills, identification of success strategies, and consultation to achieve long-term goals. In July, this year's 40 Fellows attended a five-day workshop in Chaska, MN, where they participated in intensive classes and exercises related to effective academic leadership. To find out more about AACN's leadership programs, see www.aacnnursing.org/Leadership.

AACN Leadership Networks

To date, more than 1,600 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, Faculty Resources (formerly called Instructional Leadership), Research Leadership, Practice Leadership, Business Officers of Nursing Schools, Nursing Advancement Professionals, and Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals. See www.aacnnursing.org/Leadership-Networks.

Representation by AACN Leaders at Key Meetings and Events

AACN's Board Chair, Chair-Elect, President/CEO, deans, and staff represent the interests of the association and its membership at a number of high profile events throughout the year. Below is a sampling of meetings attended by AACN's leaders since March 2017:

- On March 23, President/CEO Deb Trautman presented on *Trends in Academia and in Health Professional Education* before the RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholars in San Francisco.
- On April 5-7, Deb Trautman attended the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education in Washington, DC.

- On April 27, Deb Trautman attended the final meeting of the RWJF-funded Academic Progression in Nursing program in Chicago.
- On May 2, Deb Trautman moderated a panel discussion at an issues forum convened by the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington, DC.
- On May 17, Deb Trautman presented on the *New Era for Academic Nursing* report for Chief Nursing Officers affiliated with Vizient.
- On May 23, Deb Trautman was presented with an Honorary Degree from SUNY Downstate College of Nursing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- On June 14-17, Board Chair Juliann Sebastian attended an invitational conference in Atlanta hosted by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation on competency-based time-variable education. Dr. Sebastian serves as a member of the Conference Planning Committee.
- On July 13, Deb Trautman attended the National Academies of Medicine Action Collaborative on Clinician, Well-Being and Resilience, in Washington, DC.
- On September 7, Board Chair-Elect Ann Cary participated as an invited panelist at the National Health Research Forum organized by Research!America in Washington, DC.
- On September 11, Deb Trautman participated on a RWJF Health Policy Fellows Panel convened in Washington, DC.
- On September 14, Board Chair Juliann Sebastian presented testimony before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Health Subcommittee on “Supporting Tomorrow’s Health Providers: Examining Workforce Programs Under the Public Health Service Act.”
- On September 20, Deb Trautman participated in the joint meeting of the Center to Champion Nursing in America’s Nursing Council and Nursing Coalition in Washington, DC. These groups work closely with the Campaign to implement the recommendation from the Institute of Medicine’s Future of Nursing report.
- On September 21, Juliann Sebastian and Deb Trautman participated in the Federal Nursing Leadership Meeting held in Bethesda, MD.
- On October 3, Deb Trautman attended the Washington Higher Education Secretariat meeting, in Washington, DC, under the leadership of the new President Ted Mitchell.
- On October 4, Juliann Sebastian, Ann Cary, and Deb Trautman attended the FNINR Nightingala, in Washington, DC.
- On October 5-8, Juliann Sebastian and Deb Trautman attended the American Academy of Nurses Annual Conference, in Washington, DC.
- On October 11, Deb Trautman attended the RWJF Think Tank in Washington, DC to explore the development of a roadmap to prepare nurses for practice, education and leadership roles in population health.
- On October 18, Deb Trautman and the other members of the Special Medical Advisory Group, which is convened by VA Secretary David Shulkin, met in Washington, DC. Membership in SMAG has expanded to include additional national healthcare leaders, including Richard Pollack, President and CEO of the American Hospital Association, and Dr. Darrell Kirch, President and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges.
- On October 20, Deb Trautman presented at the Centennial Gala for the University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Nursing in Omaha, NE.

FACULTY AND STUDENT RESOURCES

Introducing AACN Connect

Free for faculty from AACN member schools, AACN Connect is an online collaboration community that facilitates the sharing of best practices, curriculum concerns, innovations, feedback, and networking with colleagues nationwide. The platform provides a convenient way for AACN members to ask for expert advice, seek practical solutions to everyday challenges, identify new approaches to teaching, and share the latest news impacting academic nursing. Faculty, staff, Leadership Networks members, and students affiliated with the Graduate Nursing Student Academy also enjoy access to dedicated channels on AACN Connect. See www.aacnnursing.org/Membership/AACN-Connect.

New Publication Outlines Clinical Experiences for CNLs

In June, AACN released a list of 24 experiences deemed critical for preparing Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) graduates to effectively perform in diverse practice settings and systems upon graduation. CNLs are prepared with the knowledge and skills focused on quality improvement, leadership, care coordination, interprofessional communication, evidence-based practice, change processes, and population risk assessment. The list of clinical experiences was developed by an expert panel comprised of CNL faculty, representatives from practice, and practicing CNLs. In addition to the experiences identified, the expert panel strongly recommends that CNL students have the opportunity to conduct an evidence-based quality improvement project. The project may be conducted in conjunction with, or as a part of, a multiple-site project or a larger change/quality improvement project in one system. Download the document [here](#).

AACN to Introduce Livestreaming Option for Baccalaureate Conference

In a move to enhance member services, AACN will offer complimentary live streaming broadcasts from the upcoming Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral Education Conferences. From each of these events, AACN will live stream one plenary session on the opening day to offer those who are unable to attend the opportunity to hear a presentation by a noted thought leader. The inaugural live stream is scheduled for November 16 from 4:00-5:15 pm (ET) from the Baccalaureate Education Conference, featuring the dynamic, visionary leader Cy Wakeman, President and Founder of Reality-Based Leadership. During her presentation, Ms. Wakeman will share her approach to reducing conflict and solving long-term problems in academic nursing leadership. Click [here](#) to register to watch this livestream for free.

Registration Opens for the Student Policy Summit

Given the strong demand by students, AACN opened registration for next year's Student Policy Summit conference on October 11 with a two-student limit per AACN member school. The Summit, which convenes baccalaureate and graduate nursing students from AACN member schools in Washington, DC, offers attendees a three-day experience to learn from nursing and healthcare's leading policy experts. In addition, students make Hill visits with AACN member deans/directors to discuss priorities for nursing education, research, and practice that contribute to the national healthcare dialogue. The 2018 summit is planned for March 25-27. Interested

students must get the dean's approval to register. Click [here](#) for more details. [Sponsorship opportunities](#) are available and help ensure that the cost of attendance is reasonable for students.

AACN Announces New Members of the GNSA Leadership Council

On September 7, AACN announced that six nursing students have been selected to serve two-year terms on the national Leadership Council of the Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA). Following a call for applications, which was disseminated to more than 500 U.S. nursing schools with master's and/or doctoral degree programs, the following individuals were selected to serve on the council:

- Tamu Abreu, Texas Woman's University
- Yasmine Adem, University of Colorado, Denver
- Jung Amaral, Johns Hopkins University
- Catherine Pantik, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
- Heather Raley, University of Louisville
- Brandon Varilek, South Dakota State University

"AACN applauds these graduate nursing students for their commitment to advancing the GNSA's mission to foster collaboration, innovation, and excellence in academic nursing and health care," said AACN Board Chair Juliann Sebastian. "We are excited to work with these student leaders on several new initiatives this year, including the GNSA's inaugural national conference in February and a virtual career fair for graduate-prepared nurses."

PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

Jonas Center and AACN Expand Support for Doctoral Students

Since 2012, AACN has partnered with the Jonas Center to enhance the nation's supply of doctorally prepared nurses available to serve in faculty and clinical roles. In January 2016, the Jonas Center identified the number and type of Scholars to be awarded this year, including: 235 Jonas Nurse Leader PhD Scholars, 74 Jonas Nurse Leader DNP Scholars, 53 Jonas Veterans Healthcare PhD Scholars, 60 Jonas Veterans Healthcare DNP Scholars, 4 Donald Jonas PhD Legacy Scholars, and 3 Donald Jonas DNP Legacy Scholars for a total of 429 Scholars. This is the largest cohort to date with Scholars representing 143 institutions. AACN is grateful for the generous support for doctoral nursing education provided by the Jonas Center.

Tri-Council for Nursing

For more than 40 years, the Tri-Council for Nursing has met to advance shared priorities and define a common advocacy agenda for the profession. The Tri-Council consists of four steering organizations: AACN, the American Nurses Association (ANA), the National League for Nursing (NLN), and the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE). AACN's Board Chair, Board Chair-Elect, and President/CEO represent the association at these meetings.

At the April 13 meeting, the Tri-Council members finalized the group's latest collaborative document – [The Nursing Civility Proclamation](#) – which was approved by the AACN Board at its July meeting. The Tri-Council was joined by Drs. Divina Grossman and Fitzhugh Mullan who gave an overview on the “Beyond Flexner” report, and HRSA’s George Zangaro and Joel Nelson who presented an update on the HRSA Nursing Workforce Survey, which is now taking shape. In addition, AONE CEO Maureen Swick gave an update on the outcomes from the Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) project, including plans for all Tri-Council members to notify their members that the APIN office was closing on June 30.

At the September 22 meeting, the Tri-Council received an update on shared government affairs priorities, including legislative initiatives to advance healthcare reform and efforts to sustain funding for nursing education. In addition to finalizing plans to disseminate the Nursing Civility Proclamation, the members also discussed increasing content on primary care and community-based care in nursing curriculum, advanced nursing practice and the DNP, natural disaster responses, and nurse faculty shortages.

Latest Developments from IPEC

The Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) was established in 2009 by AACN and five colleague organizations committed to advancing interprofessional learning experiences and promoting team-based care. Recent highlights from IPEC include the following:

- On May 22, IPEC and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) announced that the University of Central Florida (UCF) was selected as the recipient of the inaugural Public Health Excellence in Interprofessional Education Collaboration Award. A joint effort between the USPHS and IPEC, this honor is presented to a team of health professional students and/or faculty, whose interdisciplinary work has significantly impacted the community they serve. In a press release, USPHS and IPEC applauded UCF’s interprofessional team from the schools of medicine, nursing, social work, physical therapy, and pharmacy, which collaborated with the Farmworkers Association to provide free clinics for uninsured farmworker families. The UCF project members were recognized by the IPEC Council on June 7 in Washington, DC.
- On June 14, IPEC announced a new enrichment opportunity for deans and other senior academic administrators across the health professions looking to polish their skills in the area of interprofessional leadership and engagement. Facilitated by faculty from the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL), the IPEC Interprofessional Deans Leadership Program (IDLDP) will be held November 29–December 1, 2017 at the Association of American Medical Colleges Learning Center in Washington, DC. This three-day, interactive experience is customized to the needs of senior academic leaders with three or fewer years of experience from IPEC member associations’ schools. See www.ipecollaborative.org.

AACN Joins with NLN to Oppose Budget Cuts to Nursing Education

Reacting to President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 proposed budget, AACN joined with the National League for Nursing (NLN) to issue a joint statement expressing concern that the

proposal may negatively impact the nursing workforce and the nation's access to high-quality nursing care. Both organizations did not support the President's budget due to its near elimination of funding to programs that help educate the nurse and nurse educator workforce. For more than 50 years, HRSA's Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs have been a mainstay in the pipeline, ultimately improving access to, and quality of, health care in underserved communities. AACN and the NLN will continue to advocate for federal support in nursing education programs that are essential to the health and well-being of our nation.

PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW RESOURCES

NursingCAS Continues to Expand Nationwide

Nursing's centralized application service – NursingCAS – opened its 2017-2018 cycle on August 23 with over 230 schools participating. In the previous cycle, schools processed more than 105,000 applications to 1,900+ different programs. NursingCAS provides valuable information to prospective nursing students about the admissions requirements of participating programs, notifications about programs with available space, and the ability to easily apply to programs of interest through one, online service. NursingCAS has enormous potential to produce vital data that can positively impact the profession and influence policy, and it gives you the power to run custom and comparative reports on-demand. As you and your colleagues do important work to shape the future of nursing by selecting the best candidates to enroll in your programs, NursingCAS can be a vital asset to help you manage your application and admissions process, and also can be customized to support your holistic admissions process. AACN encourages all schools to join the service and take part in this important initiative for the nursing profession. Click [here](#) to find out more.

New Data on the Vizient-AACN Residency Project

The Vizient-AACN Nurse Residency Program is designed to effectively support new nurses as they transition into their first professional roles. The program is built on an evidence-based curriculum using the AACN *Baccalaureate Essentials* and meets national residency accreditation standards. This year, 75 new hospital systems initiated the residency program, which has been rated highly by graduates and employers. With 403 residency sites active in 36 states, the nurse retention rate of first-year baccalaureate graduates was, on average, 93.3% at residency sites, which is significantly lower than the national average. Nurses completing the residency also reported higher levels of confidence, competence, and perceived ability to organize their work and communicate.

Showcase Your School of Nursing on AACN-TV

AACN-TV is an online portal dedicated to showcasing innovations in academic nursing. Accessible at www.aacntv.org, this platform was created through a partnership between AACN and New Media News TV to highlight schools of nursing, promote pathways into the profession, and explore future directions in nursing education. This collaboration allows us to offer AACN member schools access to high quality video services at a discounted rate to facilitate your ability to showcase the "human side" of your program to prospective students, alumni, foundation leaders, and other stakeholders. Videos produced through this partnership may be

used to help recruit new students and faculty, engage with potential donors, highlight nurse-led research efforts, profile faculty members and/or students, spotlight community-based health services, showcase curricular innovations, and in many other ways. Nursing schools interested in finding out more are encouraged to contact producer Danny Cohen at danny@aacntv.org.

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.aacnnursing.org/Deans/New-Dean-Resources. For more information, contact Membership Assistant Caitlin Partridge at cpartridge@aacnnursing.org.

Deadline Approaches for AACN's Annual Survey

AACN's 2017 Annual Survey of institutions with baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs will close on November 3. Information collected from the survey is incorporated into the nation's premier database on trends in nursing school enrollments and graduations; student and faculty demographics; and faculty and deans' salaries. Survey participation is vital to AACN's mission to advance professional nursing education, research, and practice. All participating schools will receive free copies of the reports to which they contribute information. Programs affiliated with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) are reminded to complete the survey to satisfy CCNE's annual reporting requirement. Please direct questions to Di Fang, AACN's Director of Institutional Research and Data Services, at dfang@aacnnursing.org.

Survey Data Show Increase in the Faculty Vacancy Rate

New data from AACN's annual survey of faculty vacancies confirm that the shortage of nurse educators is being driven by a limited pool of doctorally prepared nurses and noncompetitive faculty salaries. Based on data from 832 U.S. nursing schools with baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs (83.3% response rate from member schools), the full-time faculty vacancy rate in 2017 was 7.3%. Most of the vacancies (87.6%) are for faculty positions requiring or preferring a doctoral degree in nursing or a related field. Survey respondents reported that the major reasons precluding schools from hiring additional faculty are insufficient funds to hire faculty (75.0%), an unwillingness by school administration to commit to hiring additional faculty (51.6%), and an inability to compete with jobs in the clinical setting (35.2%). For survey results, click [here](#).

Upcoming AACN Conferences

AACN conferences provide deans/directors and faculty with a stimulating source of professional development and allows for valuable networking. Upcoming conferences include:

- Fall Executive Development Series in Atlanta, GA, November 15-16, 2017
- Faculty Development Conference in Atlanta, GA, November 15-16, 2017

- Baccalaureate Education Conference in Atlanta, GA, November 16-18, 2017
- PhD Pre-Conference in Naples, FL, January 17, 2018
- Faculty Practice Pre-Conference in Naples, FL, January 17, 2018
- Research Leadership Network Program in Naples, FL, January 18, 2018
- Doctoral Education Conference in Naples, FL, January 18-20, 2018
- CNL Research Symposium in Garden Grove, CA, February 21, 2018
- CNL Summit in Garden Grove, CA, February 21-23, 2018
- Master's Education Conference in Garden Grove, CA, February 22-24, 2018
- Nursing Advancement Professionals Conference in Washington, DC, March 22-24, 2018
- Spring Executive Development Series in Washington, DC, March 23-24, 2018
- AACN Deans Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, March 24-27, 2018
- Student Policy Summit in Washington, DC, March 25-27, 2018
- Graduate Nursing Admissions Professional Conference in Nashville, TN, April 2-4, 2018
- Business Officers of Nursing Schools Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, April 25-27, 2018

Click [here](#) for more details on upcoming conferences.

CNL Summit and Research Symposium Planned for February 2018

Coming to Anaheim, CA on February 21-23, the annual **CNL Summit** provides a forum for all healthcare and academic audiences currently implementing (or interested in exploring) CNL education and practice. Conference topics include the impact and value of the CNL role on improving patient outcomes, implementing and sustaining the CNL role across diverse systems of care, the CNL role in quality and safety initiatives, innovations in education, and the complementary relationship between the CNL and other members of the healthcare team, including nurse managers, APRNs, and physicians. Special forums for CNL faculty and nursing/healthcare executives also are offered. The CNL Summit and Master's Education Conference are sequenced to offer overlapping plenary and poster sessions to allow master's faculty to attend both conferences.

The 2018 **CNL Research Symposium**, a pre-conference workshop offered in conjunction with the CNL Summit, will be held on February 21 from 8:00 am-12:15 pm. Hosted by the Commission on Nurse Certification, the theme is *Quality Improvement & Improvement Science: The CNL's Contribution*. Program sessions will focus on the CNL's role in data collection, evaluation for reporting clinical outcomes, and quality improvement.. For details about the Summit and Research Symposium, click [here](#).

U.S. Department of Education Continues Recognition of CCNE

The U.S. Department of Education has continued its recognition of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) as a national nursing accrediting agency, finding that CCNE is a reliable authority to determine the quality of nursing education programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels, including programs offering distance education. In addition, the Department announced that it has granted CCNE's request for an expansion of its scope of recognition to include nursing education programs at the certificate level. CCNE accredits more than 1,600 baccalaureate degree, master's degree, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) certificate programs at more than 750 institutions

in the United States and its territories. In 2014, in response to the needs of its community of interest, CCNE began reviewing postgraduate certificate programs that prepare APRNs. At present, CCNE accredits 144 post-graduate APRN certificate programs. Additionally, CCNE is the first organization in the United States to accredit entry-to-practice nurse residency programs.

AACN Staff Achievements

AACN is proud to recognize three staff members for their recent professional recognitions:

- **Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto**, Chief Policy Officer, completed her work in the final cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows Program.
- **Dr. Colleen Leners**, Director of Policy, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.
- **Dr. Rick Garcia**, Director of Nursing Education, was named a Fellow in the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

Recognition for Years of Service to AACN

In celebration of their dedication and commitment to the association, AACN's Board of Directors and CEO would like to recognize the following staff members for their milestone anniversaries this year:

5 Years of Service: **Marta Okoniewski**, Director of Student Engagement
 Shelley McKearney, IPEC Associate Director

Welcome to New Staff Members

AACN is delighted to welcome several new staff members since the Spring Annual Meeting. Please join us in welcoming the following individuals: **Sarah Buffington**, Conference and Administrative Assistant; **Steven Cenname**, Policy Analyst; **Jabari Cooper**, Nursing Education Assistant; **Philippa Guilfoyle**, CCNE Administrative Assistant; **Anika Janzen**, CCNE Administrative Assistant; **Catherine Proulx**, Communication Assistant; and **Autumn Spriggs**, Administrative Assistant.

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



Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chair, Board of Directors



Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer