



THE BONUS NEWSLETTER

February 2018



CHAIR MESSAGE



Lisa H. Miller, MBA, CPA

Associate Dean for Administrative Services

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Nursing

Have you felt like the “Energizer Bunny” recently? Despite institutional and environmental changes and the effects they have on your job and nursing school, you just keep “going and going and going...”

If so, there’s a place to be inspired, network with other leaders, and keep your battery charged by learning innovative approaches to the unique challenges you are faced with. It’s the 33rd annual BONUS meeting in San Antonio on April 25, 26, 27, 2018. The theme for this year’s meeting is “Fiesta: Celebrating Success and Sharing Solutions” and the agenda promises to give you the tools you need to help lead your nursing school through the challenges we are all experiencing. The program brochure can be found on the AACN website: <http://www.aacnnursing.org/Professional-Development/Conference-Info/sessionaltcd/1421>

In addition to planning and promoting our next conference, I wanted to let you know the BONUS Steering Committee has been working “non-stop” since our last meeting in Savannah. With the support of AACN, we have updated the BONUS website with a current membership directory, photos and committee listings. We have solicited sponsors for our annual meeting, continue to recruit new BONUS members, and are working on special projects. If you have specific requests for projects or information you think the Steering Committee can help with, please let us know.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who have participated in the new BONUS Online Community. It’s one of the ongoing benefits of membership and a great example of the support network we are so fortunate to be a part of. It’s also one of the first benefits I mention when speaking with prospective members.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (919)843-6760 or lhmillier@email.unc.edu. Until we meet in April, stay energized!

Warm regards,

Lisa

Chair, BONUS Network



UPDATES & REMINDERS



Fiesta Dinner at Casa Rio

All meeting attendees are encouraged to join fellow BONUS members for a lively and fun group Fiesta Dinner at Casa Rio Restaurant by the Riverwalk on April 26th at 6:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to catch up with one another and meet new members! If you have already registered for the meeting and would like to add this event, you may email conferences@aacnnursing.org.

Please keep an eye out next week for the staff benchmarking survey that will be conducted by Jason Wright from Columbia University School of Nursing. The results of the survey will be presented at the annual meeting and prepare you with comparative staffing data for like sized nursing schools. The more data we gather, the more meaningful the results!

BONUS Annual Meeting

Registration

Don't forget to register by March 26th to avail the early bird registration price. For more details, please go to <http://www.aacnnursing.org/Professional-Development/Conference-Info/sessionaltcd/1421>. Annual Meeting Brochures had been mailed out to Nursing Schools/Colleges and posted at AACN Connect.

Hotel Reservations

Meeting venue is at Hilton Palacio Del Rio Hotel, San Antonio. During the week of our meeting, the city is celebrating "Fiesta San Antonio", so make your hotel reservations soon to guarantee a room!



Inaugural BONUS 5K Fun Run/Walk!!!

You are invited to join us for a "just for fun – no pressure" 5k Run/Walk event on Thursday (second day of the meeting), April 26th at 6:30 am. This event is another great opportunity to network with fellow BONUS members and to enjoy the outdoors before we begin the day. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Jason Wright Jw2922@columbia.edu or Karis Wolfe kpwolfe@hsc.wvu.edu. Feel free to sport your festive outfit for this fun event!



BONUS MEMBER FEATURE



Mr. Rudolph Gomez, known to all as “Rudy” is a Lifetime Honorary member and one of the founding leaders of the AACN Business Officers of Nursing Schools (BONUS) established in 1986. Rudy has chaired and served on several committees and participated on panels over the years. He served as president of BONUS twice which involved a three-year commitment as president-elect, president and past president. For his outstanding service with the organization, he received the Jerry Otzman founder’s award in 2013. The award is given every five years to a BONUS member based on sustained outstanding service, leadership and contributions to the organization.

More than 40 years ago, Rudy was hired as an audio visual technician by the University Of Texas School Of Nursing’s interim Dean and director of Clinical Skills Learning Laboratory and in 1981, became the supervisor of Audio Visual Services. He completed a degree in business management and his leadership talent paved the way for a promotion as Dean’s Administrative Assistant in 1983 and then another promotion in 2010 as Assistant Dean for Administration and Business Officer. In this role, he managed the School of Nursing’s Budget, Payroll, Human Resources, compliance monitoring and special projects. He again received a promotion in 2013 to serve as the Associate Dean of Finance and Business for the school.

In addition to his role in the School of Nursing and BONUS, Rudy also led major fund raising campaigns for causes such as March of Dimes Healthwalk, United Way, US Savings Bond Campaigns and multiple other campus-wide events. His extraordinary leadership and influence led University of Texas Health Science Center to join in the United Way San Antonio’s leadership group known as the “Pacesetters”.

One of the most fascinating things about Rudy is that he always has the drive to understand how things work. His mother once said “When Rudy was young, we didn’t have a working clock in the house. He was always taking things apart.” It is evident that his “tinkering” nature led him to a very successful career at the University Of Texas School Of Nursing, and become a well-respected leader of the AACN BONUS. In 2014, Rudy was honored and celebrated during his retirement reception by senior leaders and colleagues at the University of Texas for his 41 years’ service to the university and the School of Nursing..... at which time he was honored by the creation of the "Rudy Gomez Nursing Technology Endowment" to honor him for his four decades of service.

Rudy has always felt that the more one puts into BONUS, the more one gets back. He attributes to his longevity, sustained energy, and successful longevity to the annual BONUS meetings that provided the opportunities to network, realize that you are not alone, just be yourself, and to have FUN with fellow esteemed national colleagues. He believes that by doing this, one is rewarded by a sense of purpose to legitimize who we are and what we do, and to build lifelong friendships. BONUS is extremely fortunate to have him as one of the founding leaders who established a solid foundation for the organization. We look forward to his attendance at the 2018 Annual Meeting in April.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

