Graduate Nursing Students: Tell Us About Your Debt!

AACN needs your feedback! If you are a graduate student, we ask that you please take this short survey which will help the association in its higher education policy work. As you may be aware, the House of Representatives recently released a comprehensive higher education bill that would overhaul federal student loans. Understanding nursing’s graduate student debt is essential in policy discussions around student affordability and accessibility. Please complete the survey by February 15, where you will have the opportunity to enter in a random drawing for a $25 Amazon gift card. Individual answers will not be released, and responses from this survey will be comprehensively reported by program level. In order to gather a broader number of respondents, please feel free to share this survey with your classmates.

Senate Committee Hearing Questions Alex Azar, HHS Secretary Nominee

The Senate Finance Committee (SFC) held a hearing on President Trump’s nominee Alex Azar, JD, as the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 9. Mr. Azar previously served at HHS as general counsel from 2001-2005 and as Deputy Secretary from 2005-2007 under President George W. Bush. Most recently, Mr. Azar has been professionally linked with the pharmaceutical industry, formerly serving in a leadership capacity at Eli Lilly and Company. In November 2017, Mr. Azar also testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, in which he promised to tackle drug prices if confirmed. The SFC is expected to hold a vote on his confirmation this week. Mr. Azar would replace Tom Price who resigned in September 2017. Currently, Eric Hargan is the Acting Secretary and Deputy Secretary of HHS.

AACN Advances NIH’s All of Us Research Program

AACN is collaborating with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the All of Us Research Program, which is a landmark research effort that aims to engage more than one million volunteers representing the diversity of the United States to improve the ability to prevent and treat diseases based on individual differences. AACN’s Doctoral Education Conference will feature a table showcasing this important work on January 18-20, 2018 at The Naples Grande Beach Resort in Naples, FL. If you are attending, please stop by the booth and learn more about this innovative research program.