Hosting a Virtual White Coat / Oath Ceremony
A webinar on holding an iconic ritual emphasizing humanism in health care in an age of physical distancing
Welcome from the Association of American Colleges of Nursing

Kathy McGuinn, MSN, RN

Director of Interprofessional Education and Practice Partnerships, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
Agenda

1. Welcome from Kathy McGuinn, Director of Interprofessional Education and Practice Partnerships, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)

2. Introductory remarks Dr. Deborah Trautman, President & CEO, AACN

3. A brief history of White Coat and Oath Ceremonies

4. Conducting a WCC virtually during the time of COVID-19
   - Our toolkit: What already exists?
   - Tips for planning
   - Maintaining traditions during a virtual ceremony
   - Keynotes and speakers
   - Reciting the oath
   - After the ceremony

5. Q&A

Introductory Remarks

Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN
President and Chief Executive Officer | American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
Joining you today from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Louisa Tvito, MSW
Director, Gold Humanism Honor Society
Director, Program Initiatives
The Arnold P. Gold Foundation
A brief history of White Coat/Oath Ceremonies

The Gold Foundation instituted the White Coat Ceremony as a way to emphasize humanism in medicine at the very start of medical education.

In 2014 Gold and AACN partnered to adopt a White Coat/Oath Ceremony for Nursing.

Today, a White Coat Ceremony or similar ritual such as stethoscope or oath ceremony takes place at more than 360 schools of nursing, and nearly all medical schools in the U.S., as well as in 19 other countries.
Conducting a virtual White Coat/Oath Ceremony

- Is it possible to conduct an event that feels ceremonial and maintains the traditions of a White Coat/Oath Ceremony virtually?

- The importance of the message behind the ritual of cloaking: placing human interests, values and dignity at the core of teaching and practice.
Ceremony Toolkit

Press release template (Word doc)
Template to fill in for your specific school to encourage media coverage.

White Coat Ceremony slides (PPT)
Available slides to incorporate into your ceremony
Prerecorded Keynote Speaker

Honorable Lauren Underwood
Illinois’ 14th Congressional District
Former Senior Advisor at the Department of Health and Human Services
Virtual White Coat/Oath Ceremony program

- Possible formats: Webpage, PDF (can be downloaded, printed, saved)
- Content:
  - Order of events
  - Names of all speakers/ leadership and short bios
  - Student roster
  - Full oath text
  - “Thank You” page for alumni supporters and other contributors

  The Gold Foundation will be creating a template, likely in InDesign, that can be saved as a PDF. If you have a format preference, please let us know!
Other parts of the White Coat/Oath Ceremony

Pocket card (PDF)
This card traditionally accompanies the Gold Foundation humanism pin and is placed in the pocket of the white coat.

Gold Foundation pin
A pin was specifically created for Schools of Nursing when WCCs began in 2014. The pin represents the critical bond between patients and clinicians. The logo features the Mobius loop which symbolizes the continuous bond of trust, respect, and communication that connects healthcare professionals with their patients when humanism is at the core of healthcare.
Tips for planning a virtual White Coat/Oath Ceremony

• Timeline for planning

• What platform will you use?
  o Understanding the capacity of your video platform
  o Technical logistics
  o Having an IT person on-hand
  o Muting, spotlighting

• What time of day works best to hold your ceremony?

• Registering for the event

• Communication efforts

• Keynotes and faculty speakers

• Following up after the ceremony
Maintaining the traditions of a Nursing White Coat/Oath Ceremony

- Messages from school leadership
- Keynote
- Cloaking and Pinning
- Reciting the oath
- Blessing of the hands
- Lamp lighting ceremony

Clockwise from top left: Loma Linda University, California State Long Beach, University of St. Francis, Florida Atlantic University
Closing Remarks

Richard I. Levin, MD  
President and CEO  
The Arnold P. Gold Foundation
Q&A
Contact Us

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