American Association of Colleges of Nursing

A year-long recognition of AACN’s first 50 years will culminate with a spectacular 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala at the Library of Congress during the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference (ANLC) in Washington, DC, October 19-22. The Gala will be a celebration of the invaluable contributions made by AACN membership to nursing education over the past five decades.

Gala attendees are sure to be awed by the magnificent murals, mosaics, and vaulted marble ceilings of The Great Hall of the Library of Congress, where the Gala will be held. Scheduled to present remarks is Rep. Donna Shalala (D-FL), former Secretary of Health and Human Services, former President of the University of Miami, and Chair of The Future of Nursing Committee, which produced the 2011 Institute of Medicine report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.

Highlighting events during the ANLC will be a featured presentation from Pulitzer Prize-winning author and noted historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. An expert on the doctrine of leadership, she will speak on leadership in turbulent times. Dr. Goodwin relies on lessons of the past to shed light on cultural, economic, and political transformations that define today’s turbulent climate.

Other featured speakers include Dr. Malcolm Cox (consultant and former Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs), who will receive the John P. McGovern Lectureship Award and speak on “Preparing the Next Generation of Health Professionals: Mapping a Strategy for Success”; Dr. Phil Dickison (Chief Officer of Examinations, National Council of State Boards of Nursing), who will address the many questions and misperceptions regarding the new NCLEX; and Dr. Terry Fulmer (President, John A. Hartford Foundation), who will outline nursing’s role at the systems level for gerontological care.

Another conference highlight will be a 50th Anniversary Celebration panel, with panelists delivering reflections on AACN’s impact on academic nursing. Participating will be three persons who have played integral roles in shaping AACN: Dr. Jean Bartels (Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Emerita, Professor of Nursing Emerita, Georgia Southern University, and former AACN Board President), Dr. Kathleen Long (Professor and Dean Emerita, University of Florida, and former AACN Board President), and Dr. Geraldine “Polly” Bednash (Chief Executive Officer, GDB & Associates, and former Chief Executive Officer, AACN).

We hope you’ll be able to join us in recognizing all the contributions made by AACN members to advance excellence in academic nursing over the last 50 years. Find more details on AACN’s 50th anniversary on our website.
AACN’s Essentials Task Force is moving ahead with its charge to re-envision the Essentials documents, which are used to ensure quality in nursing programs offered at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral (DNP) levels. These documents have been used by members to shape the development of hundreds of nursing programs accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and other entities.

AACN is using an accelerated process to update all three Essentials documents simultaneously to ensure that competency expectations are closely aligned and appropriately leveled. Given the importance of this work to the future of professional nursing education, AACN is planning a number of opportunities for members to provide input on draft documents produced by the task force as we work to reach consensus around the competency expectations of future graduates. The following feedback opportunities are planned through March 2020:

October 2019

Academic Nursing Leadership Conference, Washington, DC

The task force is planning to share the first draft of its work with the membership, including the preamble to the new Essentials, the 10 identified domains (associated activities based on practice), and domain descriptions. Meeting attendees will have a chance to provide input on this material and ask questions during these sessions:

- **October 19, 3:45-5:00 pm**: At the Here to Serve session, AACN President and CEO Deborah Trautman will provide a brief update to members on the Essentials process, including an overview of feedback sessions planned at the Fall meeting.
- **October 20, 9:30-10:30 am**: The Essentials Task Force will update members and share new content from the draft Essentials for participants to review and comment. Plans for a National Faculty Meeting to be held later this year also will be discussed.
- **October 20, 10:45 am-12:00 pm**: Members will be asked to consider specific questions related to the new Essentials during the Like Schools Discussions.
- **October 21, 9:00-10:30 am**: The task force chair will provide a verbal report during the AACN Business Meeting.
- **October 22, 8:00–9:00 am**: All meeting attendees will be invited to participate in a focused discussion on issues emerging from the Essentials revision process.

November 2019

Baccalaureate Education Conference, November 23, 9:00-10:15 am, Orlando, FL

Task force chairs Drs. Jean Giddens and John McFadden will provide an update on the Essentials revision, discuss opportunities for feedback, and answer questions.

Continued on page 3
November 2019-January 2020

National Faculty Meeting at AACN Member Schools

To reach the largest constituency possible, AACN will encourage all member schools to host a faculty meeting to discuss the re-envisioning of the Essentials and related issues. AACN will provide a video overview, meeting goals, discussion questions, and an online mechanism to provide feedback to the task force. More details on this consensus-building event will be shared at AACN’s Fall meeting.

January/February 2020

Doctoral Education Conference, January 30-February 1, Naples, FL

AACN members will have two opportunities for discussion about the Essentials revision at this conference:

• February 1, 8:15-9:15 am: At the Like School Discussions, attendees will be asked to share their reactions to the latest draft of the Essentials, including addressing specific questions raised by the task force.

• February 1, 10:45 am-12:00 pm: At the closing session of the Doctoral conference, task force members will provide an update on the work of the task force and share details on upcoming regional meetings.

February/March 2020

Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Summit, February 20-22, San Antonio, TX.

AACN members and leaders from nursing practice will have the opportunity to discuss the Essentials at this summit. Additional information regarding the specific date and time of this session is forthcoming.

Regional Meetings, Dates and Locations TBD

The task force is planning to host regional meetings to collect feedback on the draft Essentials from members and the larger community of interest. Information about these regional events will be shared later this fall.

March 2020

AACN Deans Annual Meeting, March 21-24, Washington, DC

Led by the task force, the final day of AACN’s annual Spring conference (March 24) will focus on refinement of new Essentials document, including a discussion of the issues and challenges involved with re-envisioning curricular expectations at the undergraduate and graduate level, which may touch on simulation, clinical hours, final products, and immersion experiences.

Additional opportunities to review drafts of the new Essentials and provide feedback, including webinars, will be announced as this work moves forward. Any questions about the task force’s work and opportunities for engagement should be directed to AACN’s Chief Academic Officer Joan Stanley at jstanley@aacnnursing.org.

October

Organizational Leadership Network (OLN) Program
October 18-19
JW Marriott Washington
Washington, DC

Academic Nursing Leadership Conference
October 19-22
JW Marriott Washington
Washington, DC

November

Executive Development Series for Faculty
November 20-21
Buena Vista Palace
Orlando, FL

Faculty Development Conference
November 20-21
Buena Vista Palace
Orlando, FL

Baccalaureate Education Conference
November 21-23
Buena Vista Palace
Orlando, FL

Faculty Leadership Network (FLN) Program
November 21
Buena Vista Palace
Orlando, FL

Andrea Lindell (University of Cincinnati, 1998-2000)

My proudest achievement during my term as AACN President centered on the beginnings of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). After the historic 1996 vote by membership to establish a new entity for accrediting baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, the association faced the formidable and risky challenge of accepting that validating vote of membership confidence, and we had to work toward building a strong accrediting body. As Polly Bednash said at the time, “now we have to do something!” In short order, CCNE became the autonomous accrediting arm of AACN. A CCNE Board of Commissioners was established and staff were hired, most notably Jennifer Butlin, who 20 years later continues as the Commission’s tremendous Executive Director.

Looking ahead, I foresee AACN continuing to be at the forefront of nursing education. The association has shown that it is not averse to taking risks, and there is no reason to believe that mindset will change with the membership and their leadership. I believe AACN will continue to be proactive in determining the challenges ahead and take the necessary action to accept those challenges, not be afraid of risks, and continue to be the standard-bearer for academic nursing.

Carolyn Williams (University of Kentucky, 2000-2002)

My fondest memories, first as a Board Member and later as President, center on the opportunities I had to work on important issues and to do so with highly talented and committed colleagues. The positive spirit of teamwork prevalent at AACN fueled by respect for each other’s ideas and contributions despite occasional strong differences of opinion made possible several accomplishments. One that stands out in my mind is the proactive leadership the Board took in laying the groundwork for the development of consensus around the practice doctorate, which emerged as the Doctor of Nursing Practice. Considerable Board discussion and deliberation resulted in a proactive approach and the formation in 2002 of the Task Force on the Practice Doctorate, led by Dr. Elizabeth Lenz of Ohio State University. At the 2004 Fall Meeting, Dr. Lenz moved that all 13 recommendations of the Task Force be adopted, which it was by a majority vote. The Task Force’s recommendations and their acceptance by the voting institutional members of AACN set in motion the momentum for the development of a national consensus around the DNP as the practice doctorate for nursing. Subsequent Presidents and AACN Boards continued AACN’s leadership in the evolution of the DNP.

For example, in January 2005, the Board appointed two new task forces to move things forward: The DNP Essentials Task Force and The DNP Roadmap Task Force. AACN’s leadership in fostering the positive development of the DNP continues to this day, and I’m confident it will continue.

The nursing profession may be on the verge of a major move forward in having an impact on the health of populations, but this depends on the ability of the profession to prepare future nurses with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide strong leadership. There is an enormous need for change in what is happening with the health of Americans. Nursing as a discipline historically has emphasized prevention of disease, and protection and promotion of health. As a profession, nursing has the most direct contact with patients which puts them in an influential position. However, the 2010 IOM Report on the Future of Nursing reports that “the public is not used to viewing nurses as leaders.” We must change that if nursing is to have a more significant impact. Regarding leadership, the IOM report asks the question “will various groups of nurses (student nurses, front-line nurses in clinical units, community nurses, chief nursing offices, nurse researchers) hear the call?” Also, the question of whether nursing organizations will hear the call. In the IOM report, several leadership development initiatives were highlighted and since that report others have emerged. However, the need is so great, and the payoff of success so important, that a unique opportunity exists for AACN to focus more attention on leadership development of future nurses. What will it take to develop more “movers and shakers,” those nurses celebrated for their abilities to produce positive and sustainable change and outcomes in clinical and community settings at the local or national level? We need to think more deeply about potential barriers to leadership development in nursing and...
how to design learning opportunities for leadership development based on the best evidence available. While all nursing students need learning opportunities in leadership, it is crucial that more attention be directed to leadership development for current faculty, so they along with their practice partners can lead their students. With the success AACN has had in other initiatives, it is well positioned to play a much larger role in this area.

Kathleen Long (University of Florida, 2002-2004)

My proudest achievement belongs to the entire AACN Board and many staff members. We tackled the emotionally laden topic of the education needed for professional nursing practice. As a result of the discussions held with the membership and with leaders in nursing practice, the Clinical Nurse Leader program was developed, the Doctor of Nursing Practice was envisioned, and a residency program was formalized.

My fondest memory, of course, is representing AACN at President George W. Bush's White House signing of the Nurse Reinvestment Act in 2002. So many AACN members and staff worked so hard to make that happen, and I was very fortunate to be the association’s President when the legislation was actually signed.

Looking ahead, the education of future generations of nurses is the key variable in addressing increasingly complex health care. AACN is well positioned to provide leadership in advancing education and healthcare policy, so that nurses are prepared at a level appropriate for their roles. Professional nurses are the core of health care, serving as coordinators, translators, and advocates for patients and families in all settings. Special challenges for the profession lie in keeping pace with educational advancements for other healthcare providers, and in expanding the leadership of nurses in enhancing quality of life for the nation’s rapidly aging population.

Jean Bartels (Georgia Southern University, 2004-2006)

Doctorate in Nursing. With this decision AACN moved the current level of preparation necessary for advanced practice nursing to the doctoral level. This transformation, envisioned to be completed by the year 2015, recognized the rigor of advanced practice nursing education and placed nursing on a level playing field with other health care team members. I was fortunate to have served previously on the AACN task force examining the need for the practice doctorate, thus increasing my commitment to this transition, and making my role as the President calling for this endorsement vote, a bit easier.

AACN continues to be the most recognized and powerful voice for nursing education in the United States and across the globe. With AACN’s current groundbreaking work towards defining expected educational competencies for entry to nursing practice and for advanced studies in nursing, I predict AACN will be the quintessential definer of nursing education into the future. AACN will continue to delineate clearly nursing’s unique identity as a profession, set robust expectations for nursing excellence in education and practice, and elevate nursing to its rightful position of leadership in the delivery of care excellence and the advancement of equitable health policy.

Jeannette Lancaster (University of Virginia, 2006-2008)

My proudest achievement, and fondest memory, is working with selected specialty organizations in nursing, especially the nurse anesthesia group, to gain their endorsement of and commitment to move forward toward adopting the DNP for their practitioners. It was extremely gratifying to collaborate with these organizations as we worked toward our goal.

Regarding the future, as health care and healthcare financing continue to change, the role of advanced practice nurses will grow. I know AACN will continue to be the leader in developing and advocating for expanding roles for nurses. The CNL and DNP are two excellent examples of nursing education leadership. Graduates of these programs are making significant contributions to health care and will continue to do so.
Fay Raines (University of Alabama in Huntsville, 2008-2010)

In thinking back over my time as AACN President, there are so many wonderful times that it is difficult to identify a single fondest memory or outstanding achievement. Rather, I tend to think about my time as President as a painting with many views that come together to create a beautiful landscape. Some of my most significant memories and proudest achievements include testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, chairing the meeting in which AACN members endorsed the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice, appointing task forces whose work led to the later adoption of Research Focused Doctoral Programs in Nursing: Pathways to Excellence and the Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing, representing AACN on the Tri-Council for Nursing during the development of its first Policy Statement on the Educational Advancement of RNs, and expanding our international visibility and influence through membership in the Global Alliance for Leadership in Nursing Education and Science (GANES).

Through all this important work, one of my greatest achievements may have been my ability to listen to people with very different, strongly held points of view and to then bring those disparate views together to achieve a jointly owned and supported outcome.

I believe that the opportunities for AACN and the nursing profession will continue to expand. As health care needs grow and become more complex, the need for highly educated, highly competent nurses with expanding abilities to lead in health care delivery and policy setting will escalate. AACN is well positioned to build on our current strengths and successes and be the organizational leader in developing those nurses and in meeting those needs.

Kathleen Potempa (University of Michigan, 2010-2012)

AACN membership grew during the years I was on the Board and as President. I am extremely proud of the work that was done to set standards for baccalaureate and graduate education especially supporting the move to the DNP. Advanced practice nurses have and are continuing to expand their reach for full licensure authority across the country in an ever-expanding knowledge explosion in health care. Acknowledging and rewarding the depth of preparation required for today’s advanced practice is critical in the competitive market space.

AACN continues to be the strongest voice in nursing for nursing education, practice, and research.

Jane Kirschling (University of Maryland, 2012-2014)

In relation to my proudest moment, serving on the AACN Board of Directors, and then as President of the Board, was an exceptional career opportunity.

It allowed me to engage in thoughtful and purposeful work with other nursing leaders to truly advance baccalaureate and graduate nursing education. Also, I had the opportunity to develop lifelong colleagues who continue to serve as a resource and an inspiration.

Looking ahead for AACN, we will need to expand our efforts in disseminating best strategies for a diverse workforce, advocating for research and education funding for schools, and pacesetting the standards for excellence in nursing education. Opportunities for our profession include increasing our focus on knowledge development at all levels of academic nursing to improve health and healthcare systems and being partners transforming care.

Eileen Breslin (University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, 2014-2016)

The most memorable moment for me as President was the courageous conversation AACN member deans engaged in for the development and approval of the diversity, inclusion, and equity statement. We now have guidance as we seek to develop an inclusive workforce with intentionality.

Continued on page 7
Q&A with AACN Past Presidents

Juliann Sebastian (University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2016–2018)

Working with our amazing members, Board of Directors, and staff of AACN was truly a highlight for me. During my time as Chair of the Board of Directors, the work of the five newly formed task forces, plus the staff and board liaisons, and the standing committees and other task forces was absolutely humbling. AACN members have been so very busy in past years with major initiatives, and to have five task forces that considered extremely important topics in great depth truly advanced our work in academic nursing. The task forces were: Preferred Vision of the Professoriate; Governance; Academic Progression in Nursing; Vision for Nursing Education; and Defining Scholarship for Academic Nursing. Each task force had great leadership and members, and members completed their work during the two year time frame or very shortly thereafter, producing a number of documents, recommendations, and other important statements for the field. This is just one example of the leadership that is the thread that carries academic nursing forward. There were other already existing task forces during my tenure that did incredible work and vibrant and exciting dialogue among AACN members. I also am so very excited about the impact of moving into the new headquarters space at 655 K Street. This is helping propel our interprofessional work and helping us showcase the importance of academic nursing as a driving force in higher education and healthcare.

As AACN member schools work to meet the need for nurses at baccalaureate and higher degree levels in the future, the opportunity to contribute to the health of the public through academic-clinical partnerships. People are concerned about the issues nurses address: promoting health, managing chronic conditions and injuries, fostering healthy families, communities, and environments, to name just a few. We have opportunities to further develop leadership for nursing education, science, and practice to contribute to ameliorating health problems in the broadest sense and foster the highest quality of life possible in diverse, equitable, and inclusive communities.
**IN MEMORIAM: CCNE BOARD MEMBER FERN BEAVERS**

Fern Beavers, MSN, RN, APRN, Clinical Nurse Specialist at the VA Western New York Healthcare System, in Buffalo, New York, died on September 17, 2019. Ms. Beavers was elected to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commissioners in 2017, representing practicing nurses. She additionally served as a member of the CCNE Accreditation Review Committee since 2018 and as an on-site evaluator since 2000.

Ms. Beavers completed her undergraduate work at Trocaire and D’Youville Colleges, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Later, she received a Master of Science in Nursing from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, and a post-master’s certificate from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Devoted to America’s veteran population, Ms. Beavers worked at the VA Western New York Healthcare System from 1976 until the time of her death. Throughout her career, she held clinical instructor positions in nursing and medical schools.

Ms. Beavers was passionate about service to the profession and to the community. She was inducted to Sigma Theta Tau in 1989. Before her election to the CCNE Board of Commissioners, she served as a CCNE on-site evaluator representing practicing nurses on evaluation teams at 19 different institutions. Among her other service to the community, Ms. Beavers was a member of the Gamma Phi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Erie County chapter of The Links Inc.

“Ms. Beavers served her community and the profession of nursing with pride and dedication. During her tenure with CCNE, she embraced the CCNE values, and reminded us all that nursing schools are charged with preparing effective professional and socially responsible citizens,” said Dr. Mary Jane S. Hanson, Chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners. “We are all fortunate to have had Fern as an advocate for nursing and America’s veterans.”

Ms. Beavers’ family has asked that memorial gifts be made to the following:

- African American Veterans Monument Committee
- P.O. Box 231
- Buffalo, NY 14202

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**WEBINAR**

**Leveraging APRNs to Combat the Opioid Epidemic: An Overview and Recent Findings**

October 30, 1:00–2:00 pm (ET)

This presentation will provide an overview of the opioid epidemic and pharmacological interventions for opioid use disorder treatment. The role of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in combating the opioid epidemic will be discussed, with special focus on recent expansion of buprenorphine prescriptive authority to APRNs. Recent findings regarding barriers to and facilitators of buprenorphine prescribing will be highlighted. This webinar focuses on topics surrounding the successful completion of the 2019 AACN/NIDA Mentored-Facilitated Award for substance use disorders science dissemination.

Register for this webinar [here](#).
Board Chair-Elect
Secretary

Need for representation of institutional types/sizes and Practice representatives follow the same guidelines as academic
Special consideration will be given to candidates with previous Practice Board Member-at-Large – One-year term (1 vacancy)
Practice representatives must share a commitment to advancing Practice representatives must be individuals who have earned Practice Board Member-at-Large – Two-year term (1 vacancy)

The nomination packet due date is October 11, 2019.

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Dean of the School of Nursing

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) seeks a dynamic, visionary and entrepreneurial leader to serve as Dean of the School of Nursing. UTEP is designated as a Carnegie R1 and Community Engaged doctoral research university located in El Paso, Texas, one of the largest binational communities in the world. UTEP enrolls approximately 25,000 students in 74 bachelor’s, 74 master’s, and 22 doctoral programs. School of Nursing faculty are highly prepared and support the institutional mission of access, excellence, and impact as contributors to student success and engaged scholarship.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Reporting directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and holding an endowed faculty chair, the Dean of the School of Nursing will serve as an essential member of the University’s leadership team. The Dean selected will be expected to effectively develop and manage organizational resources, represent the shared organizational purpose and vision of UTEP and the SON, establish collaborations/partnerships with internal and external entities, build leadership capacity, and spearhead organizational change when appropriate.

REQUIREMENTS

The successful applicant must possess the following qualifications: a master’s degree in nursing, an earned Ph.D., and a record of accomplishment meeting the requirements for the rank of professor with tenure. It is expected that the Dean will possess the leadership qualities necessary to administer a large school (approximately 2,400 undergraduate and graduate students) that admits and graduates undergraduate students several times a year. SON students are diverse, with 80% of all students identifying themselves as minority members, and 22% of all students identifying as males.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The School of Nursing enrolls more than 2,400 undergraduate and graduate students and operates on a $5.6 million budget. Its faculty of 90 members offer one undergraduate degree, three graduate degrees, one doctoral degree and one graduate certificate program. The School has established research programs and partnerships that are key to UTEP’s great success in serving as a regional catalyst for economic development, social mobility, and enhanced quality of life. Read more about the School of Nursing at www.utep.edu/sondeansearch/about-son.html.

ABOUT UTEP

UTEP is an urban, public university located in El Paso, Texas, a growing community of more than 840,000 which, together with Juárez, Mexico, forms one of the world’s largest bi-national metropolitan areas. UTEP is part of the University of Texas System. It is a nationally recognized public university, with an 80% Hispanic student population. UTEP proudly reflects the demographic composition of the bi-national region from which it draws the vast majority of its students.

In the fall of 2019, UTEP was recognized as one of the top universities for Hispanics by the Hispanic Outlook on Education. UTEP ranked in the top 10 for total Hispanic enrollment among four-year schools and total Hispanic graduate degrees granted. Read more about UTEP at www.utep.edu/about.

For additional information, and to apply, please visit: https://www.utep.edu/sondeansearch

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