At the 2020 Academic Nursing Leadership Conference (ANLC), AACN presented several awards to individuals for their outstanding contributions to nursing education, research, and practice. The conference was held as a virtual experience for the entire month of October with the award presentations occurring on October 18.

Dr. Cynthia Clark, professor emerita at Boise State University School of Nursing, was the recipient of the John P. McGovern Invitational Lectureship Award. Dr. Clark was honored for her groundbreaking work on fostering civility. She spoke to the AACN membership on “The Imperative of Civility and Community in Uncertain Times” and provided a deeper understanding of incivility and its impact as well as evidence-based strategies to foster civility and healthy academic working environments.

The Geraldine “Polly” Bednash Lectureship Award was presented to Dr. Darrell Kirch, President Emeritus of the Association of American Medical Colleges and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Kirch spoke on “The Future of Health Care—Finding Common Ground in Divisive Times,” drawing on his experiences in government, academic health centers, and associations to discuss how health care can and should become the place in which we find national (and global) “common ground.”

The 2020 Lois Capps Policy Luminary Award was presented to Dr. Peter Buerhaus, Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies and Professor of Nursing at Montana State University. Dr. Buerhaus was recognized for his integration of health policy into nursing education, in particular, his outstanding research work that informs federal health policy and adds to our collective knowledge of health economics, the nursing workforce, and quality of care.
This Doctoral Conference addresses both the practice and the research doctorate and provides ample opportunity for the development of teaching, research, and administrative roles. National trends in doctoral nursing education are explored as well as strategies to increase enrollment and ways to increase or maintain rigor in terminal degree programs. Participants benefit from interaction with peers, industry leaders, and experts during interactive learning formats. Additionally, abstract presentations in both poster and podium format address the many changes and challenges in doctoral education.

Among the sessions will be “How COVID-19 Kicked Open the Door to Innovation in Doctoral Education” presented by Dr. Michael M. Crow, President of Arizona State University; “The Time is Now: Will the Real Future Nurse Scientists Stand Up?” with speaker Brigadier General (Ret.) Clara Adams-Ender, former Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, and former Deputy Commander General, Military District Washington; and “Finding the Fertile Ground: Developing a Program of Research that Addresses Equity and Fosters Inclusion” with speaker Dr. J. Margo Brooks Carthon, Associate Professor and Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania.

In addition, three pre-conference opportunities are being offered: Faculty Practice Pre-Conference, PhD Pre-Conference, and the Research Leadership Network Program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LATEST AACN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AACN is pleased to announce the latest winners of the AfterCollege-AACN Nursing Scholarship Program and the Uniform Advantage-GNSA Scholarship. The AfterCollege-AACN Scholarship supports students who are seeking a baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree in nursing. Special consideration is given to students in a graduate program with the goal of becoming a nurse educator; completing an RN to BSN or MSN program; and those enrolled in an accelerated nursing program. The Uniform Advantage-GNSA Scholarship supports students who are seeking a master’s or doctoral degree in nursing and are members of the Graduate Nursing Student Academy. The purpose of this scholarship is to support graduate nursing education and continue to positively impact the future of healthcare. Please join us in congratulating these scholarship recipients. For more information on these and other AACN scholarships, view our student scholarships page.

AfterCollege-AACN Nursing Scholarship Winner

Susan Hornbeck, Accelerated BSN
Texas A&M University

Uniform Advantage-GNSA Scholarship Winner

Jaime Criswell, DNP
University of Arizona

AACN Mourns Passing of Robin Remsburg, Dean at University of North Carolina Greensboro

Dr. Robin Remsburg, dean of the nursing school at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG), passed away on December 3, 2020, after a long illness.

In a statement, UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., said, “Robin was a treasured member of our academic community, and her contributions to UNCG are numerous – including growing the already strong School of Nursing into a signature program and helping to lead the design and opening of the new Nursing and Instructional Building. Her legacy will live on in our outstanding, highly rated programs; in the thousands of nurses who graduated during her tenure; and in future generations who will study here with a world-class faculty and a state-of-the-art facility.”

Dr. Remsburg had been dean at UNCG since 2013. Over the course of her career, she held academic positions at the Eastern Kentucky University School of Nursing, UNCG School of Nursing, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and School of Medicine. Prior to her arrival at UNCG, Dr. Remsburg served as associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services, School of Nursing at George Mason University in Virginia.

Dr. Remsburg was a past president of the National Gerontological Nursing Association, and a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the National Gerontological Nursing

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The Foundation for Academic Nursing, the philanthropic arm of AACN, has announced the first two recipients of the AACN Faculty Scholars Grant Program, which was launched earlier this year to support nurse educators whose scholarly activities reflect AACN’s strategic priorities. The nurse faculty receiving funding to launch new scholarly projects are Ann Graves, PhD, RN, Professor, University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, and Beth Culross, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC, Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing. Learn more about the winners here.

“Supporting excellence and innovation in nursing education drives AACN’s mission and the work of the Foundation for Academic Nursing,” said AACN President and CEO Deborah Trautman. “AACN is proud to announce our first two Faculty Scholars whose work will help advance academic nursing’s priorities in the area of competency-based education and disaster response.”

The AACN Board of Directors approved the Faculty Scholars Grant Program in 2019 to spotlight the innovative work being led by nurse educators to redesign teaching and learning at AACN member schools. Funding for this program was provided by more than 150 nursing schools and organizations that contributed to AACN’s 50th Anniversary Celebration program. Through this initiative, a total of $100,000 in funding will be distributed to support four $25,000 faculty scholarship projects through 2022.

For the 2020-2021 awards, AACN issued a call for applications in May 2020 for scholarly projects focused on competency-based education to support the transition underway to the new AACN Essentials and on disaster response given nursing’s response to the pandemic. A total of 104 applications were received from faculty throughout the nation, with 62 applications focused on disaster response and 42 on competency-based education. Each application was assessed and scored by 10 expert reviewers, and final selections were approved by AACN leadership.

The funded scholarly projects include:

**Advancing Student Evidence-Based Practice Competency:** Focused on the assessment and evaluation of competency-based education, Dr. Graves will examine student understanding of evidence-based practice (EBP) competencies with the goal of updating undergraduate course curriculum and assignments. This study will highlight the translation of specific student data using valid survey tools to guide the development of course content, objectives, and activities to advance student knowledge, beliefs, and self-efficacy in EBP.

**Immersive Virtual Reality for COVID-19 Primary Care Nursing:** With new forms of technology becoming more widely available for virtual simulation, nurse educators must understand the purpose and effectiveness of emerging modalities, including Immersive Virtual Reality (IVR). Led by Dr. Culross, this project will focus on the integration of innovative technology into course delivery to enhance nursing education models and increase the competency of nursing students in the care of COVID-19 patients using primary care and telehealth.

Findings from these studies will be shared with the academic nursing community and published in the Journal of Professional Nursing. AACN will be issuing a new call for applications for a second round of AACN Faculty Scholar grants in early 2021.

**Contributing to the Foundation for Academic Nursing**

The Foundation for Academic Nursing is currently seeking support from philanthropies, corporate donors, and individuals looking to advance AACN’s goals and priorities. Your support will help to expand our impact and usher in new innovations in nursing education and practice. Those wishing to contribute are encouraged to donate online via the AACN web site. Click here to see a list of current donors. For more information, please contact foundation@aacnnursing.org.
Jane Hoff has been selected by AACN’s Health Policy Advisory Council (HPAC) for her project **Substance Abuse Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment in Pregnant Patients: A Program Evaluation.** Jane has been a nurse in OB/GYN nursing since 1984 after graduating with her BSN from the University of Miami. While working Labor and Delivery at Miami’s Jackson Memorial Hospital, she was accepted to University of Pennsylvania and earned her MSN as a Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist in 1990. Jane worked in Philadelphia as a Perinatal Nurse Educator until deciding to become a midwife. She completed her certificate as a Certified Nurse Midwife from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in 1995. Jane has since retired as a Nurse Midwife in 2014 and is currently working as a Varsity girls lacrosse coach for 15 years, and has incredible fond memories working with teen girls, promoting health and athleticism.

Armiel Suriaga’s project - **A Statewide Analysis of Synthetic Cannabinoid and Cannabinoid-Related Deaths for Harm Reduction Education Dissemination,** was also chosen by the AACN HPAC. Armiel is a full-time faculty member and a PhD candidate at the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University. He worked as a lecturer for NCLEX-RN at one review center in the Philippines before migrating to the US in 2005, and as a Resident Assessment Director before he transitioned to academia. Armiel graduated as high school class valedictorian, and he pursued his nursing education through scholarships. In 1992, he received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing with honors at West Visayas State University in the Philippines. He completed his MSN at Walden University, major in Nursing Informatics in 2014.

Armiel was selected as a nurse faculty scholar by the AACN and Johnson and Johnson in 2018, and again received funding for this scholarship in 2019. He was also the recipient of the Florida Nurses Foundation Edna Hicks scholarship in 2019. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from West Visayas State University and an Outstanding Alumni Award for Nursing Service from Iloilo Science and Technology University, both in 2018. He also was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. Armiel was chosen as a visiting mentor for the Substance Abuse Research and Education Training (SARET) at New York University. In 2020, he was selected as a finalist in the National Institute of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research Graduate Partnership Program in Bethesda, Maryland, and a finalist at the Florida Blue Health Innovation Challenge on reducing hospital readmissions.

His research interests are managing chronic pain in older adults, substance use disorders, particularly opioids and cannabinoids, healthy aging, diversity in nursing education and pedagogy, and healthcare innovation. His dissertation examined the sociodemographic factors of opioid-related deaths among older adults in Florida, where he also received research grants from the Florida Nurses Foundation Edna Hicks Research Fund and the Sigma IOTA XI Chapter-at-Large.

For more information and to view past award recipients, visit [www.aacnnursing.org/students/nida-grant](http://www.aacnnursing.org/students/nida-grant).
ELNEC PROJECT REACHES HISTORIC MILESTONE WITH ONE MILLION NURSES TRAINED

The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) project is ending 2020 by surpassing a goal established 20 years ago with the project reporting that more than 1 million nurses and other professionals have been trained using the ELNEC curriculum. Administered through a partnership between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and City of Hope (Duarte, CA), ELNEC achieved this significant milestone in November, which has been designated as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

To date, 39,915 individuals have attended an ELNEC train-the-trainer course, which prepares individuals to provide state-of-the-art education in palliative care. These trainers have now reached 1,256,506 professionals by providing their own educational offerings in more than 100 countries worldwide.

This milestone of over 1 million trained was possible due to many achievements over the past year. Dr. Betty Ferrell, principal investigator of the ELNEC project and director of the Division of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope, said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has created a national healthcare crisis, and it also has made the need for palliative care very evident. Nurses caring for patients with COVID-19 faced critical needs for additional training in symptom management, communication skills, family support and bereavement care as well as self-care. ELNEC worked tirelessly to provide this education.”

This year, the ELNEC Project moved quickly to meet the educational needs of nurses and nurse educators in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As nursing schools converted to virtual learning, the ELNEC online curriculum was a valuable asset and has now been used in 757 undergraduate and graduate nursing programs with over 52,000 nursing students having completed the entire curriculum thus far. The ELNEC team also responded to the pandemic by creating a COVID-19 resource center on the ELNEC website, which provides nurses with extensive tools, COVID-19 teaching resources, symptom management guides, and other materials. Another emergent need was support for nurses who were new graduates and beginning their careers in the midst of the pandemic. ELNEC has partnered with Vizient to integrate ELNEC training into the orientation of new graduates for their 600-member hospitals.

“AACN applauds Dr. Betty Ferrell and her team for the global impact ELNEC has had on improving care for individuals at their most vulnerable,” said Dr. Deborah Trautman, AACN President and Chief Executive Officer. “As we look to 2021, we know ELNEC will continue to adapt and thrive as the nursing community confronts COVID-19 and serves the palliative care needs of patients and their families.”

For more information about the ELNEC project, visit www.aacnnursing.org/ELNEC. If you would like to send your congratulations to the ELNEC project team and/or have questions about in-person or online educational programs, please contact elnec@coh.org.

AACN MEMBER INSTITUTIONS HONORED AT ACADEMIC NURSING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

At the 2020 Academic Nursing Leadership Conference (ANLC) held in October, AACN recognized the contributions to nursing education, research, and practice made by several member institutions.

The New Era for Academic Nursing Award recognizes AACN member institutions that have successfully implemented recommendations from AACN’s report Advancing Healthcare Transformation: A New Era for Academic Nursing. This year’s award was presented to Columbia University School of Nursing.

The Exemplary Academic-Practice Partnership Award acknowledges schools involved in highly productive and model academic-practice partnerships. The 2020 recipient of this award was Farmingdale State College Department of Nursing, Molloy College School of Nursing, St. Joseph’s College Department of Nursing, and the Asthma Coalition of Long Island, a program of the American Lung Association, funded by the New York State Department of Health.

The Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award recognizes pioneering educational initiatives launched by AACN member institutions. At the ANLC, awards were presented in four institutional categories:

- Small/Liberal Arts Colleges: Lakeview College of Nursing
- Academic Health Centers: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- Private Colleges/Universities: Immaculata University
- Public Colleges/Universities: University of Missouri–Columbia
REMSBURG continued from page 2

Association, and the Gerontological Society of America. She maintained an active presence in national initiatives to improve the care and well-being of older adults and directed a program of research to address healthcare needs of older adults. She was a longstanding member of the Advancing Excellence in Long-term Care Collaborative and a member of the steering committee for the Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes Campaign. She was a graduate of the 2015 AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program.

In lieu of flowers, friends and colleagues are asked to consider honoring Robin Remsburg with a memorial to UNCG’s School of Nursing endowment fund (givetouncg.edu) or by mail Attention: Kathy Bush, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402) or to the charity of choice.

To support the information needs of nursing school deans, faculty, students, and other stakeholders, AACN has developed this resource center to highlight key information sources about COVID-19 found on the web. This page is updated regularly to include details about new informational events and webinars, the latest news from the CDC, educational events and webinars, and work underway at our nation’s nursing schools to raise awareness on prevention and preparedness efforts.
Vascular access is the most common invasive procedure, and yet peripheral IV catheters fail nearly 70% of the time.¹ That’s why B. Braun and the Association for Vascular Access (AVA) are offering a free eLearning curriculum for nursing schools to give nursing students the skills they need to insert peripheral intravenous catheters safely and effectively.

More information at avainfo.org/PIVeducation


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For more information, go to info.catme.org

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