

Enhancing Geriatric Content in Senior-Level Baccalaureate Nursing Courses

Calling On Nurse Faculty to Lead Curricular Change



By 2030, the number of older adults will more than double to 70 million, or one in every five Americans. This increase will place greater demands on the nation's healthcare system, not just in terms of capacity, but also the critical skills required to care for our aging population.

Given the increasing demand, nursing schools must do more to focus their curriculum on the care of the older adult.

Participate in the New National Initiative

The Geriatric Nursing Education Consortium (GNEC) is an innovative, national initiative to enhance geriatric content in senior-level baccalaureate courses. Administered by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), this program provides nurse educators with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to ensure that the “best geriatric practices” are imbedded in baccalaureate curricula and, subsequently, in the clinical care provided by newly educated nurses.

Using a “train-the-trainer” approach, nurse faculty attending the GNEC Institutes serve as leaders and mentors by sharing their new expertise with colleagues. This program is generously funded by The John A. Hartford Foundation through a \$2.6 million grant

titled Enhancing Gerontology Content in Senior-level Baccalaureate Courses.

This initiative builds on a previous Hartford Foundation/AACN effort to stimulate the creation of geriatric-focused curricula for baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs. GNEC centers on faculty development as a necessary precursor to successfully implementing enhancements in nursing education. The Institutes cultivate faculty who:

- Acquire and disseminate knowledge in geriatrics
- Recognize and integrate geriatric content into undergraduate curriculum
- Foster positive attitudes about aging
- Lead colleagues in “gerontologizing” senior level curricula
- Teach and mentor students in the care of older adults

For more information, visit <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/gnec.htm>, call 202-463-6930, or email GNECSupport@aacn.nche.edu

GNEC has now held three of the six scheduled training institutes. AACN is well on its way to achieving its objective to “Educate faculty at a majority of the baccalaureate schools of nursing across the country.” 415 faculty representing 231 schools of nursing from 44 states have been trained. The remaining 3 institutes are scheduled for October 14-16, 2008 in St. Louis, MO, April 1-3, 2009 in San Diego, CA and June 24-26, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. **The application deadline for the St. Louis Institute has been extended to June 30, 2008.**

CONTENT

Topic areas covered during the institute as they relate to care of older adults with complex illnesses:

- Critical Thinking
- Atypical Presentations (e.g. Incontinence)
- Dementia/Delirium
- Interdisciplinary Care
- Heart Disease
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Cancer
- Critical Care
- Mental Health
- Special Session: Making your case: A dialogue with your Dean/Chair

Upcoming GNEC Faculty Development Institutes

October 14-16, 2008 – St. Louis, MO
April 1-3, 2009 – San Diego, CA
June 24-26, 2009 – Philadelphia, PA