Graduate Nurse Education (GNE) Demonstration Announcement

On March 21, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center announced a solicitation for proposals for the Graduate Nurse Education (GNE) Demonstration. Created under the Affordable Care Act (Sec. 5509), GNE is designed to provide funding to up to five eligible hospitals, collaborating with nursing schools and non-hospital community-based care settings, to train Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) students. In an effort to boost the number of APRNs in the healthcare workforce, GNE would support these five hospitals with payments of up to $200 million over four years (up to $50 million per year) to cover the costs of APRNs’ clinical training.

The demonstration aims to increase the number of Medicare beneficiaries who would benefit from APRN services. “Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, we’re taking steps to put more advanced practice registered nurses at the forefront of our health care system,” said Marilyn Tavenner, Acting Administrator of CMS, and a nurse. “Better training and support for advanced practice registered nurses will mean higher quality care.”

Applications are due May 21, 2012.

For more information including how to apply, visit the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration website at: innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/gne.

House Passes Legislation to Repeal Higher Ed Regulations

On February 28, 2012, in a vote of 303-114, the House of Representatives passed the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act (HR 2117) to eliminate regulations proposed by the Department of Education in October of 2010. Introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), HR 2117 addresses two major issues within the higher education community: establishing the definition of a “credit hour”, and determining requirements for higher education institutions to be considered legally state-authorized. Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Ben Nelson (D-NE) have introduced a Senate version of the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

To view bill, visit: http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php, select “Bill Number”, enter “HR 2117” in search bar.

AACN Action Alert Response

Earlier this month, AACN sent out an action alert to Grassroots Network members titled “Act Now to Protect Funding for Nursing Education and Research”, urging the House of Representatives to
support funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, *Public Health Service Act*), the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (Title III, *Public Health Service Act*) in Fiscal Year 2013. This year’s appropriations season will press Congress to make difficult decisions on discretionary funding spending cuts. AACN is committed to educating Congress on the significant role these programs serve in the professional advancement of our nation’s nursing workforce.

Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) circulated a “Dear Colleague” letter requesting strong support for the Title VIII Programs. The letter received a total of 57 Representative signatures. The alert also urged House members to sign on to Representatives Markey’s (D-MA) and Bilbray’s (R-CA) “Dear Colleague” letter requesting “at least $32 billion” for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which includes support for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). This letter garnered 153 Representative signatures.

Additionally, AACN asked Congress to provide $20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs). Recognizing that these institutions serve as training sites for nurses and other health professionals, NMHCs help expand nursing school capacity by providing the clinical settings needed during APRN education.

The expiration of the action alert coincided with the deadline for Representatives to sign on to the Title VIII and NINR Dear Colleague letters, which was Friday, March 16, 2012. At the close of the alert, **188 AACN grassroots members had sent a total of 201 messages to their Representatives.** This reflects a response rate of 5.3% of subscribed AACN Grassroots Network members. AACN thanks Grassroots Network members who participated in this action alert to help raise Congress’ awareness of these important nursing issues and AACN encourages more to participate in the future.

### Need for Nurses by 2020 Greater than Previously Anticipated

For several decades, the need for more nurses has been a perpetual concern within the healthcare economy. According to data released last month by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the projected number of nurses that will be needed by 2020 is expected to reach 1.2 million. Jobs in the healthcare sector are anticipated to grow most rapidly (34.5 percent) by 2020, with Registered Nurses (RNs) ranking at the top of growing professions overall. Contributing to this increase in demand is an aging nursing workforce and a tremendous growth in the demand for nursing services by an aging American population. BLS expects that the number of practicing RNs is projected to grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or 26%. In addition, 495,500 more nurses will be needed to replace those retiring.

To view more information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, see: [http://bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t06.htm](http://bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t06.htm).

### Title VIII Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Application Cycle Now Open

The call for applications for the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship, authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* is now open. “The purpose of the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program is to provide support for licensed registered nurses enrolled as full-time students in a master's or doctoral nurse anesthesia program. Traineeships will pay all or part of the costs of the tuition, books, and fees, and the reasonable living expenses of the individual during the period for which the traineeship is provided.”

**The deadline for applications is March 29, 2012.**

For more information, see: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=147673](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=147673).
AHRQ Mentored Career Enhancement Funding Opportunity

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announced a funding opportunity for Mentored Career Enhancement grant awards in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR), or research investigating the inclusion of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, and other community stakeholders in the healthcare decision-making process. This program calls for applicants who are established mid-career and senior investigators aiming to develop new skills in comparative effectiveness research methodology and the application of these methods to improve healthcare delivery in the United States.

First application deadline: May 2, 2012.

For more information on eligibility and application requirements, see: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-115.html#SectionIII.

2012 National Health Promotion Summit

Register now for the 2012 National Health Promotion Summit, April 10-11, 2012 in Washington, DC. Hosted by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research, the Summit will provide attendees with opportunities to:

- Understand the impact that national disease prevention and health promotion initiatives have on plans for improving health at all levels – global, federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local.
- Identify disease prevention and health promotion action steps that will work for their organization.
- Collaborate and partner with organizations across various sectors.
- Use health communication strategies to tailor messages to reach their specific audiences.

Speakers at the Summit include Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Health Affairs Editor-in-Chief Susan Dentzer, and Surgeon General Regina Benjamin.

To register for the summit, visit: http://www.aptrweb.org/2012summit/registration.html.

Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program provides an opportunity for leadership development across multiple healthcare disciplines to improve policies that affect elderly Americans. The program is supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies and directed by Harold Alan Pincus, MD, in collaboration with the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program. Participants in this fellowship will work full-time in a nine-12 month assignment in an office in the US Senate or House of Representatives, a non-governmental “think-tank” organization, or within a government agency, which may include work on both local and federal levels. Fellows will directly shape policies with the goal of positively impacting the health and well-being of our nation’s expanding elderly population. These policies may include Medicare payment reform, medical home model delivery, prescription drug benefits (Medicare Part D), and care of older veterans.

Applications for the 2012-2013 fellowship cycle are due May 15, 2012.

For further information, visit: http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/.