Dr. Carolyn Yucha Named AACN Advocate of the Year

Dr. Carolyn Yucha, Dean of the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Nursing, was recognized with the AACN Advocate of the Year Award during this year’s Spring Annual Meeting. Dr. Teri Murray, Chair of the AACN Government Affairs Committee (GAC), presented Dr. Yucha with the award during the GAC program session on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

Dr. Yucha’s efforts to promote AACN’s advocacy for nursing education, research, and practice through participation in AACN Action Alerts, communication with members of Congress, and Capitol Hill visits during Fall and Spring meetings ranked the highest among AACN membership. AACN thanks Dr. Yucha for her commitment to representing nursing’s voice in the policy realm. Her dedication to advancing the profession serves as a true example of nursing’s leadership in current policy decisions that will impact nursing’s role in an ever-evolving healthcare system.

AACN’s FY 2013 Testimony to House and Senate

On March 29, 2012, AACN submitted its testimony to the House of Representatives regarding continued federal investment for nursing education, research, and practice for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. AACN requested that Congress support the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act) at the President’s budget request of $251 million. These dollars directly support the education and training of the nursing workforce, as well as nurse faculty. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Employment Projections 2010-2020, the number of nurses needed to support the public’s demand for nursing care and to replace nurses anticipating retirement will reach 1.2 million by 2020. AACN expressed that robust funding for these programs will help ensure this demand is met.

AACN supports the advancement of nursing science through strong investments in the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and is requesting $150 million in funding for NINR in FY 2013 to expand both the number and longevity of NINR-funded initiatives. Additionally, AACN asked Congress to support the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) at a level of $20 million. NMHCs are run by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and serve as training sites for nurses and other health professionals. NMHCs help increase the number of APRNs entering the workforce and promote interdisciplinary care.

On April 27, AACN submitted testimony to the Senate outlining the same priorities for Title VIII, NINR, and NMHCs as requested of the House. AACN will continue to keep you apprised of the FY 2013 appropriations process as it unfolds.
To read AACN’s House testimony, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/appropriation-advocacy/FY13House-LHHS-Testimony.pdf

For Senate testimony, click here: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/FY13-Senate-LHHS-Testimony.pdf

FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services Update

Signed into law last August as a measure to reduce the national deficit, the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 outlined the total discretionary spending level for FY 2013 at $1.047 trillion. This spring, the House of Representatives and the Senate Budget Committees were charged with the task of dividing this total amount for discretionary spending among the 12 appropriations bills, including Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED), which provides funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. Although BCA established $1.047 trillion as the ceiling cap for discretionary spending, the House Budget Committee lowered their ceiling to $1.028 trillion ($19 billion less), and allocated a total of $150.002 billion for LHHS-ED in FY 2013 ($6.3 billion less than FY 2012). On April 19, the Senate Budget Committee passed its discretionary spending allocations for appropriations bills. The Senate committee has proposed to provide $157.722 trillion ($1.4 billion higher than FY 2012) for LHHS in FY 2013, adhering to the BCA budget cap agreement of $1.047 trillion. AACN is committed to keeping our membership informed as the process continues.

AACN Joins the “Million Hearts” Initiative

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, has announced the release of a national initiative, “Million Hearts” which aims to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes among the American public by 2017. Million Hearts is designed to work in collaboration with the public to increase awareness of healthy choices to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke. AACN is honored to be a sponsor of this important initiative.

Targeted methods implemented to reduce risk factors for heart attack and stroke include improving access to care, tailoring clinical practice to prevent coronary artery disease precipitating heart attack and stroke, promotion of heart-healthy lifestyle practices, improving medication management, and focusing on the “ABCs” of clinical prevention (appropriate aspirin therapy, blood pressure control, cholesterol management, and smoking cessation). Million Hearts is supported by several agencies and organizations at the federal, state, and local levels.

To learn more about the HHS Million Hearts initiative, see: http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html

For a full listing of Million Hearts Partnerships, see: http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/aboutmh/partners.html

To learn more about how to engage in the Million Hearts, see: http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/docs/Field_Engagement_Opportunities.pdf

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research Announces New Members

On May 15, 2012, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) welcomed five new members to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR). NACNR serves as NINR’s advisory board and its membership is comprised of experts representing nursing, policy, economics, and law. Collectively, appointed NACNR members
provide guidance on NINR research initiatives and provide second level review of grant applications. NINR Director Dr. Patricia Grady announced NACNR’s newest members who will offer the council an array of scientific and policy expertise:

**Julie Anderson, PhD, RN, FAAN**
Dr. Anderson currently serves as a nursing assistant professor in the University of North Dakota’s College of Nursing, Grand Forks. Her clinical background includes neonatal intensive care nursing, transport nursing, and clinical resource nursing. Her research interests lie in skin and wound care. She is an American Council on Education Fellow and serves on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Master's Education Conference Subcommittee.

**Susan Gennaro DSN, RN, FAAN**
Dr. Gennaro is dean and professor of the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College. She has led several NIH funded research projects centered on improving perinatal health and increasing the number of minority nurses in the nursing science field. Dr. Gennaro serves as the leading nurse scientist on the Harvard Catalyst, the Clinical and Translation Science initiative of Harvard Medical School and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

**William L. Holzemer, PhD, RN, FAAN**
Dr. Holzemer is professor and dean at the Rutgers University College of Nursing, Newark. He is a distinguished researcher in the area of quality of life management for individuals living with HIV, and has further examined the how stigma and discrimination affect quality of life for Africans living with HIV/AIDS and impact of quality of work life for nurses caring for AIDS patients. Dr. Holzemer is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a former Fulbright Scholar.

**Anne Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, CNS, FDHA, FAAN**
Dr. Rosenfeld is professor and associate dean for Research at the University of Arizona College of Nursing, Tucson. Her research centers around gender differences in acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and how symptom management and treatment of ACS is specific to women. She has served as the principal investigator on numerous studies focused on women and ACS. Additionally, Dr. Rosenfeld was a principal investigator for HRSA projects related to preparing primary care nurse practitioners for rural settings, and is a fellow of the American Heart Association.

**Colonel Bruce A. Schoneboom, PhD, CRNA, MHS, RN, FAAN**
Col. Schoneboom is the associate dean for Academic Affairs at the Uniformed Services University Graduate School of Nursing. His research examines the development of bioterror monitoring technologies derived from the investigation of the nervous system’s response to bioterror pathogens. He previously practiced as an intensive-care unit nurse with the U.S. Army and has received numerous recognitions for his work in the military, including the honorable "A" Proficiency Designator for professional accomplishment.

To read more about the work of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research, see: [http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR/](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR/)

**Weight of the Nation Keys in On Obesity Prevention**

On May 7-9, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity hosted the **Weight of the Nation 2012** conference. With the rates of obesity alarmingly on the rise, **Weight of the Nation** introduced policy and environmental strategies to reduce obesity among children and adults in the US. The conference brought together over 1,200 attendees—including public policy makers, public health leaders, and researchers dedicated to obesity prevention and control—who listened to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, CDC Director Thomas Frieden, Let’s Move! Director Sam Kass, and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter discuss obesity’s effects on the population and the healthcare system. Sessions offered at the conference examined case studies of obesity-prevention and reduction strategies implemented in schools, the work environment, tribes and communities, states, and medical care. **Weight of the Nation** is also airing on HBO as a documentary series profiling obesity’s consequences to individuals and the nation as a whole.

To view more information, visit: [http://www.cdc.gov/Features/weightofthenation](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/weightofthenation)

To view **Weight of the Nation** on HBO, visit: [http://theweightofthenation.hbo.com](http://theweightofthenation.hbo.com)

**Accepting Nominations for the 2012 AACN Policy Luminary Award**

The **AACN Policy Luminary Award** is granted annually to an outstanding nursing leader for his or her public policy achievements. The award recognizes nursing leadership that has made significant impact to advance the nursing profession through policy. Past recipients include Dr. Mary Wakefield, Administrator of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Dr. Mary Naylor, Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of New Courtland Center for Transitions and Health, and Dr. Ellen-Marie Whelan, Senior Advisor at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. The outstanding career contributions to policy of these nurses exemplify the spirit of the **AACN Policy Luminary Award**.

**Nominations are due Monday, September 17, 2012, by 5pm E.T.** Please submit all nominations and questions to AACN Government Affairs Manager, Lauren Inouye at linouye@aacn.nche.edu.

For more information on the Policy Luminary Award, see: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/awards/CallforNomPolicy.pdf](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/membership/awards/CallforNomPolicy.pdf)

**Sign Up Now to Sponsor the 2013 AACN Student Policy Summit!**

The 2013 Student Policy Summit (SPS), which is open to **baccalaureate and graduate students** of AACN member schools, invites students to congregate in Washington, DC for a three-day conference focused on nursing’s role in health policy and advocacy. Sponsorship of AACN’s Student Policy Summit ensures that the cost of attending the Summit is affordable for all students, and the Summit is a highly rewarding experience.

Based on level of sponsorship, institutions that choose to sponsor have the opportunity to have their logo featured on Summit materials, and higher levels of sponsorship may cover the cost of registration for a limited number of students on a merit-based award.
This year’s Summit, which convened March 25-27 in Washington, DC, was a great success due largely in part to the generous support of its sponsors. In attendance were over 100 students who represented 41 schools across 23 states. AACN would once again like to thank the 2012 SPS sponsors: Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing’s Future, Pharmaceuticals Research and Manufacturers of America, University of Kentucky School of Nursing, and Loyola University New Orleans School of Nursing.

Sponsorship opportunities are limited and are granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To view sponsorship packages for the 2013 Summit, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/SPSSponsorPackages.pdf

Department of Education to Establish Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on HEA

The Department of Education has proposed the formation of a negotiated rulemaking committee to prepare regulations for the Federal Student Aid programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). A reported growing trend in fraudulent use of the Title IV HEA Distance Education Demonstration programs funding has warranted the development of a committee to address regulations to prevent future fraudulent use of Title IV (for further information on this matter, see, http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/invtreports/l42l0001.pdf). The Department of Education will examine regulations concerning electronic funds transfers used for the disbursement of Title IV HEA funding to recipients.

Additionally, the Department has decided to review the regulations surrounding the campus-based Federal Student Aid programs, including the Federal Perkins Loan, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and the Federal Work-Study programs.

Two public hearings will be held to suggest proposed regulations related to the above items. The public hearings will be held on:

May 23, 2012, at South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ.


Individuals who wish to speak at a public hearing should email negreg2012@ed.gov to register. The hearings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., local time.

Written suggestions for the committee to consider regarding the above issues must be submitted by May 31, 2012. Further information on the public hearing sites, how to submit comments, and for further details on the proposal for the rulemaking committee, view the Federal Register notice: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-01/pdf/2012-10488.pdf

For more information on negotiated rulemaking, see: http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2012