Mark Your Calendars for AACN’s Virtual Advocacy Day!
October 29, 2012

On Monday, October 29, 2012, AACN will hold a Virtual Advocacy day for member deans, faculty, and students in conjunction with AACN’ Fall Semiannual Meeting. AACN’s message to legislators will focus on the impact sequestration will have on healthcare programs, specifically highlighting the potentially devastating cuts to nursing education and research. Sequestration, mandated through the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), will result in an 8.2% reduction in non-exempt, non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding beginning January 2, 2013. For example, an 8.2% cut to the Nursing Workforce Development programs would result in 4,129 fewer nurses and nursing students supported through all of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. To avoid these cuts, Congress must pass alternative legislation by the January deadline. Members of Congress must hear from their nursing constituents that a balanced approach to solving our nation’s federal deficit is critical.

For members attending the Fall meeting, AACN will not hold a formal Hill day as members of Congress and their staff will be back in their home states campaigning. However, AACN is not discouraging Hill visits and will have advocacy packets available for our members. (*Please note, however, that bus transportation will not be provided.*) In lieu of a traditional Hill day, AACN has created an advocacy hub for the meeting. **Please stop by the AACN Advocacy Center Saturday, October 27 through Tuesday, October 29 to write your member of Congress expressing concern over sequestration!** Those who participate will receive an “Advocate” ribbon and can sign a board recognizing their effort.

Ada Sue Hinshaw to Accept Policy Luminary Award

AACN is pleased to announce that Ada Sue Hinshaw, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, has been selected as this year’s Policy Luminary Award recipient. Each year, the AACN Government Affairs Committee (GAC) grants this award to an outstanding nursing leader whose work in public policy has made a lasting impact on the nursing profession. Dr. Hinshaw served as the first permanent director of the National Center of Nursing Research and the first director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health. Throughout her career, Dr. Hinshaw has worked to advance nursing science and elevate nursing research as a priority in healthcare policy decision-making.

Dr. Hinshaw has conducted nursing research focusing on quality care, patient outcomes, measurement of such outcomes, and building positive work environments for nurses while ensuring patient safety. She has educated others on her findings through numerous
presentations and is a widely published author. In addition, Dr. Hinshaw has served on many scientific advisory committees and task forces and was a former dean of the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

Dr. Hinshaw is a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and its Governing Council. She was vice chair of the IOM’s report Keeping Patient’s Safe: Transforming the Work Environment for Nurses. Dr. Hinshaw received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Kansas, a Master of Science in Nursing from Yale University, and a PhD and MA in sociology from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Hinshaw will accept the Policy Luminary Award during a GAC program session during this year’s AACN Fall Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 28, 2012, at 4:45 pm in the ballroom of the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. Please join us in recognizing Dr. Hinshaw for her invaluable contributions to the nursing profession!

**AACN Participates in Nursing Community Briefing Series**

As the convener of the Nursing Community, a forum comprised of 58 national nursing organizations, AACN played a lead role in helping to organize a “State of the Nursing Workforce” luncheon briefing series in collaboration with Senator Daniel Inouye’s (D-HI) office and the bi-partisan co-chairs of the Senate Nursing Caucus. The first briefing, held on October 3, 2012, titled, “Understanding the Nursing Workforce Demand: Present and Future” featured AACN Secretary Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Kay Carnegie, MS, RN, Dean of Health Sciences at Chemeketa Community College. Dr. Sebastian and Ms. Carnegie addressed the current nursing educational environment, barriers to increasing student capacity, and the work being done by baccalaureate and associate degree nursing programs to reach the IOM’s Future of Nursing report goals of a more highly educated nursing workforce.

The second briefing, “Anticipating Healthcare Needs: The Role of Nurses” held on October 10, 2012 featured Darlene Curley, MS, RN, FAAN, Executive Director of Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor at the University of Maryland, School of Nursing, and Marjorie S. Wiggins, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at Maine Medical Center. The panelists addressed nursing’s essential and expanding roles in primary, acute, and chronic care with a focus on the critical role APRNs play in providing these services. Models of nursing care such as Nurse-Managed Health Clinics and transitional care were also shared with the audience.
The series was sponsored by 29 member organizations of the Nursing Community at various levels of support. AACN was proud to be a Diamond sponsor (highest level) for this event. The briefings were well attended by nearly 100 Senate staff, Nursing Community representatives, and other healthcare stakeholders. The dialogue among staff and speakers included questions regarding the Doctor of Nursing Practice, safe staffing ratios, and ways to address the educational barriers.

To view photos from the briefings, visit: http://www.thenursingcommunity.org/#/nc-fall-briefing-series/4569718368.

To learn more about AACN’s involvement with the Nursing Community and the initiatives it supports, visit: http://www.thenursingcommunity.org/.

AACN Leadership Attends NightinGala Fundraising Event

On September 12, 2012, the Friends of the National Institute for Nursing Research (FNINR) hosted the annual NightinGala event at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. This event convenes nursing leaders from the Administration, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and the nursing science community to raise funds and awareness for NINR’s pivotal work to improve patient care.

President Jane Kirschling, DNS, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Polly Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN, and government affairs staff attended on behalf of AACN. Pictured with Dr. Kirschling and Dr. Bednash are Administrator of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN Associate Administrator for the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions Janet Heinrich, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Chief Nursing Services Officer of the Veterans Health Administration Cathy Rick, RN, NEA-BC FACHE.

The money raised for the NightinGala goes to the NINR Director’s Fund and is used to develop new communications strategies in collaboration with NINR to inform clinical communities and the general public about the importance of nursing research.

HRSA Offering Webcast on Grant-Writing Assistance

HRSA is offering a webcast to provide technical assistance in grant-writing and tips for strengthening grant applications on Thursday, October 25, 2012 from 1:00-5:00pm ET. HRSA invites schools of nursing and healthcare organizations eligible for Division of Nursing awards to participate. The webcast will give participants an opportunity to:

- Learn what HRSA funding opportunities are available for schools of nursing.
- Understand the funding process.
- See examples of applications that have been selected to receive funding.
- Discover what factors can make it difficult to receive funding.
- Get tips for overcoming barriers.
- Learn how to write strong grant applications

RSVP is not required. For a complete schedule of the webcast, visit: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/technicalassistance/nursing/index.html.
PhRMA Announces Center for Adherence Improvement

The PhRMA Foundation Young Investigator Grant Program Center for Adherence Improvement is designed to encourage research aimed at improving adherence by providing financial support to promising researchers. The fellowship will be awarded to candidates who establish a sound and innovative research agenda focused on the goal of improved medication adherence. Relevant research goals may include the development or evaluation of policies, interventions, or tools that are potentially successful in improving medication adherence.

This program is currently offering three types of awards to be granted for one year:

- Pre-doctoral fellowship award of $25,000
- Post-doctoral fellowship award of $50,000
- Research starter grants of $50,000

Applications are due October 30, 2012. Anticipated award date is January 15, 2013. For more information, see http://www.phrmafoundation.org/.

Attend the First Annual AACN Faculty Policy Intensive!

AACN is proud to introduce its Inaugural Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) which will be held March 18-21, 2013, in Washington, DC. AACN will select up to eight faculty from AACN member schools who desire a more in-depth experience that will further their understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal departments and agencies, national nursing organizations, and the individual advocate. A programmatic outline of FPI can be accessed by viewing the tentative agenda for the 2013 FPI here: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/FPIAgenda.pdf.

FPI is an opportunity that will offer attending faculty experiences to strengthen their policy and advocacy background that can then be further shared with their students. As our healthcare system continues to undergo transformations that will require interprofessional collaboration, it is crucial that the nursing profession develops leaders to represent nursing’s voice in policy decision-making. **AACN will chose participants on a competitive-basis to attend this fully-funded opportunity.**

For more information, including application procedures and deadlines, please visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi.

2013 AACN Student Policy Summit-Register Your Students Today!

The fourth annual Student Policy Summit will be held March 17-19, 2013 in Washington, DC. The Summit is open to baccalaureate and graduate students of AACN member schools who desire to gain a more in-depth understanding about the legislative process and nursing’s role in healthcare policy. Summit sponsorship ensures that the cost of attending the Summit is affordable for all students, and that the Summit is a highly rewarding experience. Summit attendees are provided a rich experience that includes discussion sessions with leadership from federal departments and agencies, as well as the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and their staff to discuss issues relating to nursing education, research, and policy.

Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, will be the keynote speaker at the 2013 Student Policy Summit. Dr. Hassmiller, who joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 1997, presently serves as the Senior Adviser for Nursing. In this role, she shapes and leads the Foundation’s strategies to address nurse and nurse faculty shortages in
an effort to create a higher quality of patient care in the United States. Drawn to the Foundation’s “organizational advocacy for the less fortunate and underserved,” Hassmiller is helping to ensure that RWJF’s commitments in nursing have a broad and lasting national impact.

In partnership with AARP, Hassmiller directs the Foundation’s Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action, which seeks to increase access to high-quality, patient-centered care in a healthcare system where nurses contribute as essential partners in achieving success. This 50-state effort strives to implement the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine’s report the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.*

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

For more information on the Student Policy Summit, including registration and scholarship opportunities, visit: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/events/2013/03/17/student-policy-summit](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/events/2013/03/17/student-policy-summit).

**Government Affairs Events at AACN’s 2012 Fall Semiannual Meeting**

**Sunday, October 28, 2012**

AACN welcomes **Krista Drobac, MPP**, Director of the Health Division at the National Governors Association. Ms. Drobac will be the featured speaker for a program session *What to Expect in Healthcare: Prospects for 2013 from 4:45-6:15pm.* Ms. Drobac will provide a bi-partisan analysis on the anticipated path the healthcare system will take under the direction of President Obama or Governor Romney. Attendees will gain a more thorough understanding of the implications embedded in each candidate’s plan. Ms. Drobac previously served as Director of the Office of External Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as Senior Advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Monday, October 29, 2012**

The GAC is also sponsoring two concurrent sessions from **2:00-3:00pm.** The Session “What Can Government Affairs Do for Small and Private Schools?” will feature AACN members **Dr. Nancy DeBasio, Dr. Glenda Kelman, Dr. Kathryn Tart, and Dr. Marty Wit rak** who will provide their personal perspectives on the importance of engaging in AACN advocacy efforts and how they benefit their small and private institutions. The Session “112th and 113th Congresses: What Remains on the Agenda and What to Expect” will feature **Julie Shroyer**, MSW, Senior Vice President of Wheat Government Relations. Ms. Shroyer will provide audience members an overview of the transitions that will occur post-election season, including the “lame-duck” session, dealing with the “fiscal cliff,” and possible changes in leadership in the House and the Senate.

AACN is also excited to announce that **Emily Holubowich, MPP**, will be the featured speaker on Monday evening to address *The Looming Budget Deficit and the Sequester: How You Will Be Affected from 4:00-5:30pm.* This session will discuss the impact of sequestration on healthcare and research programs. Ms. Holubowich is the Senior Vice President at CRD Associates and Executive Director of the Coalition for Health Funding (CHF). CHF represents more than 75 national organizations, including AACN, that support a strong and sustained investment in public health programs. Ms. Holubowich has more than twelve years of collective experience in health and fiscal policy, government relations, writing and communications, and coalition management. She previously served as a senior health policy analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where she conducted research and developed written reports and testimony for Congress on health policy issues, including clinical trials and drug safety.