The American Association of Colleges of Nursing will hold its second annual Faculty Policy Intensive on March 24-27, 2014 in Washington, DC. This fully-funded, four-day immersion program is designed for faculty at AACN member schools who are interested in actively pursuing a role in healthcare and nursing policy. The 2014 cohort was chosen from a highly competitive pool of more than 30 applications. In March, these eight faculty members will have the opportunity to enhance their existing knowledge of policy and advocacy through sessions that will strengthen their understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal departments and agencies, national nursing organizations, and the individual advocate.

Meet the 2014 Faculty Policy Intensive fellows:

**Robin Arends, MS, CNP**
Instructor
South Dakota State University

**Sharron J. Crowder, PhD, RN**
Assistant Professor
Indiana University

**Tammy Barbé, PhD, RN, CNE**
Assistant Professor
Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University

**Nicole F. Garritano, MN, APRN, CPNP-AC**
Visiting Instructor of Clinical
The University of Cincinnati

**Joseph Burkard, DNsC, CRNA**
Associate Professor
University of San Diego

**Janice Lazear, DNP, CRNP, CDE**
Assistant Professor
University of Maryland

**Kim J. Cox, PhD, CNM**
Assistant Professor
University of New Mexico

**Jennifer Lemoine, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC**
Assistant Professor
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

For more information on the Faculty Policy Intensive, see: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi).
Final FY 2014 Spending Bill Signed into Law

On Friday, January 17, 2014, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. The final spending package, which adheres to the $1.012 trillion spending limit set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 [Public Law No. 113-67] includes $156.8 billion for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) programs. For more detailed information and historical funding levels, see AACN's Appropriations Advocacy Page.


Archive coming soon!

On Wednesday, January 22, AACN hosted a webinar titled “Lay of the Land: Healthcare Policy’s Political Landscape in 2014” featuring Julie Shroyer, MSW, Senior Policy Advisor for Polsinelli, a healthcare policy firm in Washington, DC. During the session, Mrs. Shroyer provided an overview of the political landscape shaping healthcare policy in the coming year and discussed how Congress and the Administration influence legislation that drives our nation’s healthcare delivery system. Also addressed during the Webinar is the role of committees of jurisdiction, nursing champions in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and federal agencies. In addition, Mrs. Shroyer explained how the current budget environment and the upcoming Fall 2014 election cycle may impact nursing and health care.

To register for the archive version of the webinar, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/webinars/2014/01/22/hc-policy. The archive will be made available for future viewing within two weeks of airing. For more AACN webinars, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/webinars.

FY 2014 NHSC Loan Repayment Application Cycle Open!

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is currently accepting applications for its Loan Repayment Program (LRP). The LRP provides loan repayment assistance to licensed health providers, including nurses, who commit to work in approved Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for two years. The program aims to increase the number of clinicians in these regions, thereby increasing access to care. The amount of funds awarded depends both on the program track and the score of the HPSA site. Preference will be given to those working in HPSAs with the greatest need, and to providers whose experience and background indicate they are more likely to continue working in the HPSA after their commitment to the program has ended.

The NHSC offers several technical assistance webcasts and conference calls to assist potential applicants through the process. The webcast will be on January 29, 2014 from 8:00 – 9:00 PM ET. There will also be two conference calls to be held February 5, 2014 and February 12, 2014, both from 8:00 – 9:30 PM ET. Applications are due March 20, 2014 at 7:30 PM ET. For further information and a list of eligible health professions, please see: http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/nhscloanrepayment/index.html.

Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program Accepting Applications

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) 2014 funding cycle is now open. The LRP offers health professionals the opportunity to pay off qualified student loans while assisting the IHS in meeting the staffing needs of Indian health programs. The LRP awards loan repayment to health professionals practicing in specific
health profession disciplines, including nursing, in exchange for an initial two-year service commitment working in health facilities serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Opportunities are based on staffing needs and the availability of funds. Distribution of LRP awards are based on a ranking system created to address these needs. For more application information and eligibility requirements, visit: http://www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment/apply_now.cfm.

**New Resource Posted for Nursing Workforce Diversity Program**

The technical assistance webinar for those applying to the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity Program (Public Health Service Act) has been archived and is available here: [https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/p97f0x8r5m/](https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/p97f0x8r5m/). This program provides grants to schools, nurse-managed health centers, academic health centers, state or local governments, and nonprofit entities looking to increase access to nursing education for disadvantaged students, including racial and ethnic minorities under-represented among nurses.

**Applications are due January 24, 2013.** For more information, including eligibility and application instructions, please see: [http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=248755](http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=248755).

**PCORI Funding Opportunity**

The Improving Healthcare System IHS program at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has announced they will be soliciting applications in February for a funding opportunity in research on comparative effectiveness of transitional care services. The funding announcement will solicit applications to conduct research on the comparative effectiveness of different types of transitional care service cultures. The proposals will seek to ascertain which cultures most successfully improve patient-centered outcomes and optimize utilization rates in various healthcare delivery and payment contexts.

More details will be available when the application opens on **Wednesday, February 5, 2014.** At that time, additional information will be posted here: [http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center/](http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center/). Letters of Intent will be due on **Friday, March 7, 2014.**

**HRSA Nursing in 3D Journal Supplement Released**

The Division of Nursing at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has published a new resource on the intersection of workforce diversity, health disparities, and social determinants of health. The report, *Nursing in 3D: Workforce Diversity, Health Disparities, and Social Determinants of Health*, follows up on the work of the HRSA summit by the same name that was held in August 2012. This new Public Health Reports supplement discusses the accomplishments of that summit, as well as the issues that remain to be addressed.

*Nursing 3D* focuses on how these three key themes must be linked in a comprehensive framework to achieve health equity. While the report takes an interdisciplinary approach to this problem, several articles address potential models and exemplars for the nursing profession. Articles were submitted by staff from HRSA, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Office of Minority of Health (OMH), the National Institute of Health (NIH), the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), and content experts at private universities.