AACN’s CEO Deb Trautman Participates in Briefing on Role of Graduate Nursing Education

On January 21, 2015, the Alliance for Health Reform hosted a briefing on Preparing the Nursing Workforce for a Changing Health System: The Role of Graduate Nursing Education in Washington, DC. The event was widely attended by Congressional and agency staff, the media, and external stakeholders. The distinguished panel of healthcare workforce and education experts provided insights on current and projected demands for nursing, and how federally-financed nursing education programs work to support students seeking advanced nursing degrees, most specifically the Graduate Nursing Education demonstration. Briefing presenters included:

- **Ed Salsberg, MPA**, Director of Health Workforce Studies at George Washington University School of Nursing and founding director of the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis at the Health Resources and Services Administration, described the current and projected needs for the primary care workforce.
- **Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN, FRCN**, Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor in Nursing, professor of sociology, and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, University of Pennsylvania, who described the Graduate Nurse Education demonstration being conducted through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.
- **Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN**, Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, who discussed existing mechanisms for supporting the training of nursing professionals, with a focus on the role of graduate nursing education.
- **Brittnee MacIntyre, BSN, RN, CPAN, FNP-S**, a nurse practitioner and recent nursing school graduate, who described the challenges and opportunities for nurses pursuing higher education today, and the applicability of new models of training to prepare nurses to treat chronic care and Medicare populations.

Dr. Trautman discussed existing mechanisms for supporting the education of nursing professionals, with a focus on the role of graduate nursing education—an instrumental aspect of the profession’s ability to produce future generations of advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, and nurse researchers. She stated, “AACN’s vision for the future is that highly educated and diverse nursing professionals will lead the delivery of quality health care and the generation of new knowledge to improve health and health care.”
AACN Announces 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive Cohort

AACN is pleased to announce that eight distinguished nurse educators have been selected to participate in the 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI). Now in its third year, the FPI is a fully-funded, four-day immersion program designed for faculty at AACN member schools who are interested in elevating their role in shaping health policy. The 2015 cohort was chosen from a highly competitive pool of more than 30 applicants. AACN’s Government Affairs Committee selected the following fellows based on their past achievements and future interests.

2015 Faculty Policy Intensive Participants:

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<tr>
<th>Jane Campbell, DNP, RN, NE-BC</th>
<th>Mai Kung, DNP, MPH, ARNP-BC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Michigan University</td>
<td>Florida State University</td>
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<tr>
<th>Patsy Cornelius, PhD, RN</th>
<th>David LaFevers, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC</th>
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<td>University of Arkansas Fort Smith</td>
<td>University of Missouri-Kansas City</td>
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<th>Amanda Fallin, PhD, RN</th>
<th>Janice Miller, DNP, CRNP, CDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson University</td>
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<tr>
<th>Eileen Fry-Bowers, PhD, JD, RN, CPNP</th>
<th>Suzanne Staebler, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, FAANP</th>
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<td>Loma Linda University</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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Held in Washington, DC on March 23-26, the FPI will offer these eight faculty members the unique opportunity to enhance their existing knowledge of policy and advocacy. Participating faculty will attend sessions to strengthen their understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal departments and agencies, national nursing organizations, and the individual advocate. “AACN is delighted to welcome the 2015 cohort of academic policy leaders in March. The policy expertise our faculty members bring to national dialogues is paramount to the success of meaningful health reform,” says AACN’s CEO, Deborah Trautman. 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).

Mark Your Calendars! Reach Out to Congress During AACN’s Spring Virtual Advocacy Day on March 23, 2015

AACN will be hosting its spring Virtual Advocacy Day on Monday, March 23, 2015 in conjunction with AACN’s Hill Day during the Spring Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Your support is critical to ensuring that nursing’s voice is at the forefront of those that influence policy decision-making at the federal level. Members of [AACN’s](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/)
Grassroots Network will receive an email on March 23 asking them to send a message to their federal legislators requesting they support funding priorities impacting nursing education and research in Fiscal Year 2016, as well as other pressing policy initiatives. AACN encourages you to participate as every voice counts! To join AACN’s Grassroots Network, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/take-action. AACN appreciates all that our members do to support programs and legislation that advance our profession and the health of our patients.

**NIH Publishes Improved Applicant and Award Data**

The National Institutes of Health published their applicant and award data from 2014 which showed positive progress since 2012. Highlights from the report include:

- The number of Research Project Grant (RPG) applications submitted was reported at 51,073 (down just slightly from the FY 2012 all-time high of 51,313)
- Average size of an Research Project Grant increased to a historical high of $472,827
- The success rate of RPG applications was 18.1 percent (higher than the FY 2013 rate of 16.8 percent and the FY 2012 rate of 17.6 percent)

Dr. Sally Rockey, NIH’s Deputy Director for Extramural Research, serving as the principal scientific leader and advisor to the NIH Director on the NIH extramural research program, summarized the above findings and plans to release a more comprehensive summary later in 2015. To read more from Dr. Rockey’s summary and more news from the NIH, please visit http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2014/12/31/2014-by-the-numbers.

**NHSC Loan Repayment Program Cycle Now Open**

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment program is now accepting applications. This program is open to licensed primary care, dental, and mental and behavior health providers who are currently employed or have accepted an employment offer NHSC-approved site. Awardees will receive loan repayment in exchange for working in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

Please be advised the application takes on average three weeks to complete, and interested applicants are encouraged to apply early. Available resources include the Application and Program Guidance and instructions on how to apply. Applications must be submitted in full by **7:30pm ET on Monday, March 30, 2015**. The following webinars and conference calls will be available for interested applicants:

- **NHSC Loan Repayment Application & Program Guidelines Webinar**
  - **Date**: February 3, 2015 from 8:00 – 9:30 PM EST
  - **Access link**: https://hrsaseminar.adobeconnect.com/nhsclrp2015/
  - **Dial-in Number**: 1-888-391-6801
  - **Passcode**: 8081979
  
  * To participate in the webinar, you will need to use both the access link and the dial-in number.

- **NHSC Loan Repayment Technical Assistance Conference Call #1**
  - **Date**: February 18, 2015 from 8:00 – 10:00 PM EST
  - **Dial-in Number**: 1-888-391-6801
  - **Passcode**: 8081979

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The Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) is currently accepting applications for the **2015 NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program**. The highly competitive program offers registered nurses and certain advanced practice registered nurses repayment up to 60 percent of their outstanding qualifying educational loans in exchange for a two-year service commitment at a Critical Shortage Facility, and an additional 25 percent for an optional third year. The program is aimed at creating healthy communities in poor urban and rural areas. For more information, please see the Application and Program Guidance, Application Checklist and the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Application and Program Guidelines Webinar. A webinar and two conference calls will be held for interested applicants. **Applications must be submitted by 7:30pm ET on Thursday, February 26, 2015.**

**NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Application Webinar (Pre-Recorded)**

- **Event Description:** This webinar covers eligibility requirements, the online application process, and resources for those considering applying to the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program.
- **Access Link:** NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Application and Program Guidelines Webinar

**NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Application Conference Call #1**

- **Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2015
- **Time:** 2:00 – 4:00pm ET
- **Dial-in number:** 1-888-957-9878
- **Participant passcode:** 5256022

**NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Application Conference Call #2**

- **Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2015
- **Time:** 7:30 – 9:30pm ET
- **Dial-in number:** 1-888-957-9878
- **Participant passcode:** 5256022

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**Apply for AHRQ’s 2015 Summer Intramural Fellowship Program**

The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality** (AHRQ) is soliciting applications for their **2015 Summer Intramural Fellowship Program** in Rockville, MD. The program offers multiple positions to eligible candidates who will spend the summer collaborating with leading health services researchers and helping to support and advance the Agency’s mission to “produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.”

Eligible applicants should possess a Master’s degree or higher with a concentration in health services research, health policy, or a health-related research field. With fifteen topics for research projects spanning from childhood behavior/mental health within the Office of Extramural Research, Education, and Priority Population, to assisting with grant reviews within the Division of Health Information and Technology, the program offers a variety of timely...
research initiatives to interested candidates. As a junior level fellow, selected applicants will be paired with senior-level researchers. Responsibilities typically include conducting research and performing research-related activities within the team environment. A curriculum will be set for the fellows to ensure a successful experience that includes—but is not limited to—identifying relevant background information, attending Agency seminars and external experiences, and fully understanding AHRQ’s research endeavors and goals.

Interested applicants must submit their applications by January 27, 2015. For a full list of research topics and more information on the Summer Intramural Fellowship Program please visit, http://www.ahrq.gov/cpi/about/careers/summerfellows.html.

HRSA Releases Report on Diversity in the Workforce

This month, HRSA’s National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) released a new report titled, “Sex, Race, and Ethnic Diversity of U.S. Health Occupations (2010-2012).” According to HRSA, the brief “provides information on the diversity of the U.S. health workforce with regard to factors of race, ethnicity, and sex, and demonstrates that there are variations in these factors within the health workforce.” The brief does not draw definitive conclusions on the reason(s) for these variations or their impact on health outcomes, however, it does highlight the registered nursing workforce as one of the most diverse health professions with regards to African-American (Non-Hispanic), Asian (Non-Hispanic), and American Indian and Alaska Native races.

AACN recognizes that a diverse nursing workforce is integral to caring for an increasingly diverse patient population. AACN’s Spotlight on Nursing Education; Summary of Nursing Student Diversity shows that between 2004 and 2013, the portion of ethnic minority students enrolled in:

- Baccalaureate nursing programs increased from 21.7 percent to 26.0 percent;
- Master’s nursing programs increased from 19.7 percent to 26.9 percent;
- Research-focused doctoral programs increased from 15.0 percent to 24.3 percent; and
- Practice-focused doctoral programs increased from 13.5 percent to 24.8 percent.

To learn more about AACN’s involvement in initiatives that support diversity in nursing education, see AACN’s Policy Brief The Changing Landscape: Nursing Student Diversity on the Rise.

New Paper Points to Decreased Funding for Young Scientists

A recent paper authored by Johns Hopkins University President Ronald Daniels calls attention to the decreasing portion of biomedical research funding being allocated to young scientists and its implications for scientific progress. The paper, titled “A generation at risk: Young investigators and the future of biomedical workforce,” was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and echoes concerns expressed in a 2005 National Academy of Sciences report Bridges to Independence: Fostering the Independence of New Investigators in Biomedical Research. He argues that young researchers tend to generate some of the most innovative research, and funding fewer of their projects could hold back not only potential groundbreaking discoveries, but could also deplete the pool of future research mentors.

Dr. Daniels describes how fewer funding opportunities are driving an increasing number of graduates to seek careers outside of research. The paper also provides suggestions to reverse these trends, such as strengthening the nation’s investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH).