AACN’s 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive Final Call for Applications

AACN is currently accepting applications for its third annual Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) set to take place on March 23-26, 2015 in Washington, DC. This fully-funded, four-day immersion program is designed for eight faculty members from AACN member schools who are interested in actively pursuing a role in health policy. The FPI offers participants the opportunity to enhance existing knowledge of policy 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. At the conclusion of the intensive, participants will put their new advocacy skills to use as AACN Faculty Policy Fellows. Applications are due by 5:00pm ET on Monday, November 24, 2014. For more information about FPI, including a draft agenda and application details, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi.

AACN CEO Deb Trautman Attends White House Briefing on Ebola

On October 29, 2014, AACN’s CEO Deborah Trautman joined nursing leadership at President Obama’s White House briefing, American Health Care Workers Fighting Ebola. Pictured from left to right: Frank Purcell, Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists; Melinda Mercer Ray, MSN, RN, Executive Director, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, Deb Trautman, PhD, RN, Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Colleges of Nursing; Nicholas Croce Jr., MS, Executive Director, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Karen McQuillan, MS, RN, CNRN, CNS-BC, FAAN, President-elect, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses; and Susan Hohenhaus, LPD, RN, CEN, FAEN, Executive Director, Emergency Nurses Association.

In his briefing to the nation, President Obama acknowledged the importance of nurses and the healthcare team in protecting our nation during the current Ebola crisis. The President addressed the healthcare workers who are fighting Ebola and stated, “We need to call them what they are—American Heroes.” Click here to read the Remarks by the President on American Health Care Workers Fighting Ebola.

Regarding funding to support healthcare infrastructure to fight the disease both domestically and abroad, the Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing on November 12, 2014 to address the Administration’s emergency...
supplemental funding request of $6.2 billion for Ebola-related activities. Testifying witnesses included Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Tom Frieden, MD; and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, MD.

In her opening remarks, Committee Chairwoman Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) emphasized that “The common themes are that emergency funds are needed in the short term and that sustained investments are needed in public health both home and abroad.” Committee Ranking Member Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) stated in his opening remarks, “It is the fundamental responsibility of the federal government to respond effectively to this crisis. Every prudent step must be taken to protect the American people.” To access a webcast of the full hearing, click here.

AACN is part of the Nursing Community, a coalition of 61 national professional nursing organizations that submitted outside witness testimony declaring that the coalition’s members remain dedicated to educating the public and sharing best practices on how to eliminate the spread of this deadly disease among patients and healthcare workers.

AACN’s Response: Protecting the Public and Healthcare Workers from Ebola
AACN President Eileen Breslin and CEO Deborah Trautman sent a letter on October 17, 2014, to AACN’s membership and colleagues regarding the Ebola crisis. The letter included a call to member institutions to keep AACN abreast of what efforts are being made at the local levels to address the Ebola virus. Thank you to our members who shared their resources. To view the responses from member schools and other resources related to Ebola prevention, please visit AACN’s Ebola-resources page.

On Friday, October 24, 2014, the Nursing Community released a statement regarding the Ebola crisis The Nursing Community Stands United for Swift and Coordinated Action to Protect the Public and Health Providers against the Ebola Virus Disease.


AACN Recognized as Supporter of Veterans’ Health and Wellness through the Joining Forces Initiative

On November 11, 2014 Americans across the country honored those who have served in our military by observing Veterans Day. Recognizing the need to provide service members, veterans, and their families with opportunities and resources in health care, employment, and higher education, the White House created the Joining Forces initiative in 2011 to garner the support of the private and public sectors in this endeavor. On this day, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden discussed during an interview with U.S. News & World Report how Joining Forces is succeeding in assisting veterans. For example, according to the Administration, “In just three years, the Joining Forces Initiative has encouraged employers to hire and train more than 540,000 veterans and military spouses.”

In her discussion on how the healthcare community is contributing to the campaign, Dr. Biden stated, “This week, healthcare networks and professional associations are collaborating to offer Joining Forces Wellness Week,” five sessions of virtual training for providers and students, focused on providing quality care for service members, veterans and their families. Additionally, through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, over 150 state and national nursing organizations and 650 nursing schools have committed to ensuring our nation’s
The nursing workforce is prepared to meet the unique health needs of service members, veterans and their families.”

AACN is proud to pledge its continued support for Joining Forces. For more information, including how to pledge your school’s support as a participating Joining Forces partner, visit AACN’s [Support Joining Forces](#) page.

To read the full interview with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, click [here](#).

**Government Affairs and Advocacy Activities from AACN’s 2014 Fall Semiannual Meeting**

Over 600 AACN member deans/directors, and associate deans/directors convened October 25-28 in our nation’s capital to dialogue about pressing issues facing nursing education and the profession. Below is a summary of the events related to the association’s government affairs and policy work.

**Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Program Session: Making an Impact in Public Health: A Vision for Nursing’s Role**

On Sunday, October 26, AACN members had the opportunity to hear from Captain Patrick Denis, MBA, RN, Deputy Director of Training and Support Services in the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. Captain Denis discussed how public health will play an increasing role in protecting America’s health and how nursing will be instrumental in the delivery of high-quality public health services. His enlightening discussion touched on the priorities of the U.S. Public Health Service, including the National Prevention Strategy as well as the Federal Public Health Service Nursing Strategic Plan.

**AACN Recognizes 2013 and 2014 Policy Luminary Award Recipients**

Each year, AACN grants the Policy Luminary Award to one nurse whose contributions in the policy arena have made great strides for the nursing profession. AACN recognized two true nursing leaders during the Fall Meeting.

**2013 Recipient: CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner**

AACN was pleased to award Marilyn Tavenner, MHA, RN, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Administrator Tavenner has demonstrated incredible leadership in navigating the delivery of critical programs to millions of Americans nationwide. Her ability to incorporate a nuanced understanding of the dynamic between state and federal policies has promoted positive change in our healthcare system. She is an advocate for public health and strives to ensure access to care for all communities. AACN was thrilled to have Ms. Tavenner accept the award in the presence of our members and to hear her inspiring remarks.

**2014 Recipient: Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA)**

This year, AACN was pleased to present the Policy Luminary Award to long-standing nursing champion Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA). As founder and Co-Chair of the House Nursing Caucus, Rep. Capps’ unwavering support for the profession has helped to ensure that nursing programs, including the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, receive critical federal support. Although Rep. Capps was not present in Washington, DC to receive the award, she acknowledged AACN members through a pre-recorded message encouraging members to continue their work educating future generations of nursing leaders.
2014 Fall Advocacy Day
On Monday, October 27, AACN held its 2014 Fall Advocacy Day. AACN members, as well as our Grassroots Network—comprising nearly 11,700 deans, faculty, students, practicing nurses, and other stakeholders—help rally support for AACN’s policy priorities. AACN sent the Action Alert Protect Healthcare Infrastructure in FY 2015 to AACN members and the Grassroots Network requesting they contact their legislators. A total of 745 messages reached 238 Congressional offices with the request to support a funding solution for FY 2015 that protects education and research programs for nursing and healthcare from further cuts. Although a traditional Hill Visit Day was not held due to the fact that the majority of legislators and their staff were back in their home districts during the Fall Meeting, AACN recognizes that some of its members were able to secure Hill visits.

The messages and face-to-face meetings that occurred on that Monday were recorded as part of AACN’s 535 Project: Congressional Connection. The 535 Project aims to have AACN members and staff establish meaningful connections with all 535 Congressional offices and educate legislators and their staff on nursing education, research, and practice. To date, 1,485 connections have reached 372 Members of Congress (272 House offices; 100 Senate offices).

AACN sincerely thanks its nursing education leaders and Grassroots Network for making the Fall Advocacy Day a great success!

2014 Social Media Events

Utilizing Social Media to Amplify Your Advocacy Voice
As previously mentioned, due to the Congressional calendar, most Congressional leaders and their staff were not scheduled to be in Washington, DC, but instead were in their home districts. Therefore, the Government Affairs Committee hosted a series of program sessions to maximize advocacy through other communication channels, including social media. The afternoon session began with guest speaker Brad Fitch, President and CEO, of the Congressional Management Foundation. In Mr. Fitch’s lively discussion, How to Hug a Porcupine, he explained the expanding role of social media in Congressional outreach. The presentation shed light on the true impact and importance of fostering personal relationships with Members of Congress, both on Capitol Hill and in home districts.

Following Mr. Fitch’s presentation, two concurrent breakout sessions took place.

1. Twitter Training for Enhanced Advocacy
The Twitter Training session was an opportunity for deans and associate deans to create or enhance their Twitter accounts. The session was attended by over 100 participants who set up new accounts and became familiar with Twitter. The session also helped attendees gain experience with Twitter in preparation for the evening reception in which participants would be tweeting about various nursing initiatives.

2. Pressing Policy Issues Facing AACN Members
This session was led by AACN’s Senior Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy, Suzanne Miyamoto, Associate Director of Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, and Polsinelli’s Senior Policy Advisor, Julie Shroyer. Discussion took place surrounding the pressing policy issues facing AACN members. Presenters talked about the 2014 Midterm Elections, the Lame Duck in Congress, Higher Education Act Reauthorization, student debt, the Veteran’s Health Administration’s proposal to increase access to care, and the Ebola virus. Members had the opportunity to hear how AACN is engaging in these issues and to provide a nursing lens prospective.

AACN Reception to Celebrate Nursing Education: Join the Social Media Trend
On Monday evening, a reception was held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, to culminate the social media themed sessions. The event focused on engaging members in Twitter while making the connection between social media and advocacy. Government Affairs Committee Chair, Dr. Anita Hufft, welcomed guest and attendees to
the reception, and provided opening remarks.

Keynote speaker Natalie Andrews, Social Media Editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, began the evening by sharing her expertise within social media and advocacy. Ms. Andrews engaged the audience in discussions about the use of social media and taught attendees how to use social media as a daily tool for communicating and engaging with the public.

Following the keynote speaker, reception attendees were encouraged to visit the five twitter stations set up throughout the reception hall. Each station housed a specific nursing issue, which participants were encouraged to Tweet about. The five nursing initiatives were: 50th Anniversary of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, AACN’s 45 Years of Advocating for its Members, Joining Forces, Campaign for Consensus (sponsored by Florida International University), and Ask Your Candidate.

AACN Member at Large, Dr. Greer Glazer, dean at University of Cincinnati, shared with the attendees remarks on behalf of Representative David Joyce (R-OH), co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus. The Congressman spoke to the importance of supporting the nursing profession and thanked educators for their work in protecting the future pipeline of nurses. In addition, a video recording from Representative Lois Capps (D-CA), co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus, was played to attendees. The Congresswoman spoke about the nursing profession and the importance of educators to the future of nursing.

The event generated over 250 tweets about the five nursing issues. Thank you to all those who participated on Twitter! Be sure to follow AACN’s Government Affairs Department on Twitter, [@AACNPolicy](https://twitter.com/AACNPolicy), for the latest news in health policy.
HRSA Announcements Regarding FY 2015 Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

Please see the following announcement from the Health Resources and Services Administration Division of Nursing and Public Health with regard to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act):

For FY 2015, the Division of Nursing and Public Health (DNPH) will offer new competitions for the Advanced Nursing Education, Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship, and Nurse Faculty Loan Programs. The DNPH anticipates the release of the funding opportunity announcements for these programs in December 2014, pending FY 2015 appropriations.

In FY 2014, as in all previous years, the DNPH received many more highly qualified applications than it could fund from its existing funding levels. The FY 2014 pool is rich with qualified applications and left behind highly qualified applicants in the pool for the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR-IPCP and VBSN) Programs and the Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) Program. Therefore, for FY 2015, the DNPH will not offer new competitions for the NEPQR-IPCP and VBSN Programs, or the NWD Program. Rather, the Division will draw from the FY 2014 pool of applications which were recommended for funding but were not funded to make awards commensurate with our FY 2015 appropriations level.
Once the appropriations level for FY 2015 is received, the DNPH will be able to initiate the process of making FY 2015 awards for these programs.

For more information, please visit HRSA’s Nursing Grants webpage.

2015 Amgen Scholars Program at NIH Now Accepting Applications

The Amgen Foundation is proud to announce that the National Institute of Health (NIH), located in Bethesda, MD, will be added to the list of 17 facilities taking part in the Amgen Scholars Program. The Amgen Foundation, awarded a $850,000 grant specifically for the NIH to become a host location.

The program is an exceptional opportunity for undergraduate students to conduct research projects that focus on bridging the gap between foundational and applied sciences. Scholars, who will meet requirements for the Foundation and the NIH, will spend their summer at the NIH campus, where they will be working with the some of the field’s leading scientists. The students will be paired with mentors from the NIH Intramural Research Program, and will be taught leadership skills that will help prepare them for future research-oriented careers.

The Amgen Scholars Program at the NIH is now accepting applications. The program is open to rising juniors or seniors (including fifth−year seniors) enrolled in four-year colleges or universities. The application is due in full by Monday, February 2, 2015. For a full list of requirements and more information about the scholars program, please visit: https://www.training.nih.gov/amgenscholars.

AcademyHealth Call for Abstracts

Please see the following announcement regarding AcademyHealth’s call for abstracts for the 2015 Annual Research Meeting:

The abstract submitter for AcademyHealth's 2015 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) is now open. Presentation of cutting-edge health services research is the cornerstone of the Annual Research Meeting, offering researchers the opportunity to share important findings with providers and policymakers who can put the research into action. AcademyHealth is seeking abstracts on 18 themes across multiple areas of study in health services research, as well as proposals for panels that present research or discuss key health policy topics. Abstracts submitted to the call for presentations will also be considered for publication in JAMA and HSR. More information is available online, including details on theme topics, submission criteria, instructions, and frequently asked questions. Authors must select an abstract category as well as a theme that best fits the subject area of their abstract. Abstract Submission Deadline: January 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (EST).

Abstract Themes
- Aging, Disability, and End of Life
- Behavioral Health
- Complex Chronic Conditions
- Consumer Choice and Behavioral Economics
- Coverage and Access
- Disparities and Health Equity
- Health Care Workforce
- Health Information Technology
- Improving Safety, Quality and Value
- Maternal & Child Health
- Measuring Safety, Quality and Value
- Medicare
- Methods
- Organizational Behavior and Management
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research
- Payment and Delivery Systems Innovations
- Public and Population Health
- Research Dissemination, Implementation and Impact
HHS Announces $840 Million to Improve Patient Care and Lower Costs

On Thursday, October 23, 2014, HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell announced an initiative to move the current quantity-of-care driven health systems to one focused on patient health outcomes and coordinated healthcare systems. The efforts are projected to help keep costs down, while improving quality of care and development of healthcare strategies by clinicians. The suggested strategies include:

- Giving physicians better access to patient information, such as information on prescription drug use to help patients take their medications properly;
- Expanding the number of ways patients are able to communicate with the team of clinicians taking care of them;
- Improving the coordination of patient care by primary care providers, specialists, and the broader medical community; and
- Using electronic health records on a daily basis to examine data on quality and efficiency.

Secretary Burwell additionally noted the new partnerships the Administration is forming with clinicians in order to allocate federal funding more strategically to improve care delivery, payment of providers, and distribution of information.

Through the Affordable Care Act, strategies were created in an effort to spend healthcare dollars more wisely and strengthen the quality of patient care. HHS will invest $840 million dollars through the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative. The funding will be spread out over the next four years and help support 150,000 clinicians. The initiative is structured after other successful models and programs such as the Quality Improvement Organization Program, which the Administration believe will lend to the success of the endeavor. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid’s Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Administrator for Innovation and Quality, Patrick Conway, MD, stated, “This model will support and build partnerships with doctors and other clinicians across the country to provide better care to their patients.”

To read the full article please visit: http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2014pres/10/20141023a.html

Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center Announces Next Webinar in Series

On November 19, 2014, at 2:00pm ET, the Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center (HWTAC) will host a webinar titled, Health Workforce Minimum Data Set: Asking the Right Questions. Presenters Jean Moore, Director of the New York Center for Health Workforce Studies; Elizabeth Carter, Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professionals Healthcare Workforce Data Center; and Justin Crow, Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center, will discuss the importance of timely and reliable data about health workforces to ensure effective health workforce planning. Viewers will also learn about the Health Workforce Minimum Dataset, which provides key data used to make decisions about the health workforce.

Funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Health Resources and Service Administration, HWTAC is based at the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health, University of Albany, State University of New York. The center assists states and organizations engaging in health workforce planning by providing technical assistance.

To register for the webinar please click here.