Mary Naylor Awarded AACN’s 2010 Policy Luminary Award

AACN is pleased to announce that Mary Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN will receive AACN’s highest award for achievements in the public policy arena, the Policy Luminary Award. Initiated in 2009, the AACN Policy Luminary Award was developed to recognize outstanding nursing leaders for their public policy contributions. AACN’s 40th Anniversary Celebration was selected as the first year to present this award in acknowledgment of the role policy has played in shaping nursing education and research. Dr. Mary Wakefield was the first recipient.

Dr. Naylor’s work to promote transitional care models during healthcare reform as well as her leadership roles with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission are worthy of this recognition. Dr. Naylor’s efforts to advance the nursing profession in the public policy arena are inspiring to nursing leaders and students across the country. AACN’s Board of Directors and Government Affairs Committee will present this award to Dr. Naylor on October 31, 2010 during the Fall Semiannual Meeting.

Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition’s Congressional Briefing Features Outstanding Nursing Student

On September 28, the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) hosted a Congressional briefing to highlight the importance of the Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. Speakers addressed the impact these programs have on developing a health professions workforce to meet the health care needs of our nation, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

AACN helped identify an outstanding Title VIII student recipient for the event. For three years, AACN has collected student profiles through our Title VIII Student Recipient Survey. After reading through over 1,400 profiles received last year through this survey, Jorge Roman, BSN, RN who is currently enrolled in the Family Health Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, was selected to provide testimony on the role Title VIII funding played in his ability to achieve his educational goals.
At the HPNEC briefing, Jorge described his professional experience as a Hispanic nurse and the importance of diversity in the nursing profession to ensure culturally competent patient care. During his speech, Mr. Ramon addressed the need for continued and expanded Title VIII funding for programs such as the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship, which provides financial support to graduate nursing students.

Mr. Ramon was joined by two other speakers, Frank Catalanotto, DMD, Chair of the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, and Henry North, a doctoral student at the Howard University School of Pharmacy. Both professionals addressed the benefit and importance of continued funding for the Title VII and VIII programs.

**AACN’s Government Affairs Committee Events at the 2010 Fall Meeting**

AACN’s Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is pleased to host a number of exciting events at the 2010 Fall Semiannual Meeting:

**Saturday, October 30, 2010, 6:00-7:00pm: State Grassroots Liaisons Business Meeting**
Current and new State Grassroots Liaisons (SGLs) should plan on attending this session to discuss the program, AACN's advocacy efforts, and the role of the grassroots network.

**Sunday, October 31, 2010, 4:45-6:00pm: GAC Program Session Equal Time: A Bipartisan Look at State Health Policy**
Featuring John M. Colmers, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, State of Maryland and William Hazel, MD, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia
Attendees will hear remarks on the development and implementation of healthcare reform in the states. Of particular interest to AACN members, the presentation will address the anticipated impact on nursing practice, education, and workforce.

**Monday, November 1, 2010, 7:15-7:50am: Informal Breakfast Discussion Preparing for Your Capitol Hill Visits: Advice from the SGLs and GAC**
Attendees should join AACN State Grassroots Liaisons, the Government Affairs Committee, and members of the AACN staff as they review and discuss talking points for AACN’s Capitol Hill Visits.

**Monday, November 1, 2010, starting at 1:00pm: AACN Capitol Hill Visits**
Help support AACN’s advocacy by scheduling visits with your House and Senate members of Congress TODAY! While members of Congress will be home in their districts due to the November election, their Congressional staff will be in Washington, DC. Now is the ideal time to build existing contacts with your members’ offices and cultivate new relationships. AACN will provide a bus service to and from the J.W. Marriott and the Capitol. If you are interested in scheduling a visit but need advice, contact your SGL. To identify your SGL, see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/LegislativeStrategies/StateGRPrg.htm

**AACN Congressional Reception Cancelled**
Due to members of Congress campaigning in their states for the November election, AACN has cancelled the Congressional reception traditionally held on Monday evening after our advocacy day. As you know, AACN has been honored to have House Representatives attend our past receptions. Given their absence, the decision was made to resume the Congressional receptions in the spring. In lieu of the reception, AACN strongly encourages members to schedule visits with Congressional staff.
Appointments Elevate Nurse Leaders to the National Stage

AACN is pleased to note that Gene L. Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, announced the appointments of several nursing leaders to two federal bodies newly created under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

**National Health Workforce Commission**

This Commission was established “to serve as a national resource for Congress, the President, and states and localities; to communicate and coordinate with federal departments; to develop and commission evaluations of education and training activities; to identify barriers to improved coordination at the federal, state, and local levels and recommend ways to address them; and to encourage innovations that address population needs, changing technology, and other environmental factors.”

**Peter Buerhaus**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor of Nursing and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will serve as Chair of the National Health Care Workforce Commission. Dr. Buerhaus will bring his unique expertise as a nurse researcher and economist to his leading role on the National Health Care Workforce Commission. His body of work has laid the foundation for the issues that will confront this important commission.

**Mary Mincer Hansen**, PhD, RN, Director, Master’s in Public Health Program at Des Moines University will also serve on the National Health Care Workforce Commission.

**Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**

PCORI was created to assist patients, clinicians, purchasers, and policy-makers in making informed health decisions. By advancing and disseminating quality research projects that provide relevant evidence on how diseases, disorders, and other health conditions can effectively and appropriately be prevented, PCORI will seek to improve US health care.

**Debra Barksdale**, PhD, RN, Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, was selected to serve on the Board of Governors. Dr. Barksdale’s experience and attributes as a healthcare provider, researcher, and educator are invariably aligned with the goals of PCORI and she will bring significant insight to this work.

**Comments Submitted in Support of NMHCs**

On October 4, 2010, AACN responded to the call for comments regarding the Exchange-Related Provisions in Title I of the ACA (file code #OCIIO-9989-NC). In the letter sent to Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (OCIIO) under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, AACN requested that Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs), which presently serve as safety net primary care providers for patients across the country, be included in the regulatory definition of “essential community provider.” The designation would require insurance plans participating in the insurance exchanges to provide coverage to patients seeking care in these settings. Given the critical role NMHCs play in providing primary care, AACN believes it is important to support our colleagues at the National Nursing Center Consortium who submitted detailed comments regarding this file code.

The Nursing Community, which represents over 850,000 Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, nursing students, and nurse researchers, supports advanced practice nurses as key primary care providers in communities across the nation and also submitted a letter. AACN staff will continue to monitor the outcome of this important designation and the implications for APRN practice.
Congress Passes CR for Federal Funding Through December

On October 5, 2010, Congress broke for recess, and legislators returned to their states to campaign for the 2010 midterm elections. Prior to leaving Washington, DC, both the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government through December 3, 2010. The outcome of the impending elections will weigh heavily on Congress’ agenda moving forward. Should Republicans gain control of the House, they are expected to advocate for a temporary CR, extending funding through the end of the calendar year, and would put forth their own budget in the new Congress. Should Democrats retain control of the House, a temporary CR may be used to keep the government running through early next year. The ability to finish the federal appropriations bills as well as other legislative measures hinge greatly upon the outcome of the November 2 elections.

New Law Opens Door for CSUs to Offer the DNP

On September 28, 2010, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 867, which permits the California State University (CSU) system to launch a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Pilot Program. Previously in the state of California, only schools affiliated with the University of California (UC) system were permitted to offer doctoral degrees in nursing.

“Passage of this bill would not have been possible without the strong advocacy for change on the part of CSU nursing schools and other advocates in the state,” added Dr. Potempa. “Their collective efforts have helped to open the doors of opportunity to nurses wishing to complete the terminal practice degree for the nursing profession, the DNP.” To read AACN’s letter of support for Assembly Bill 867, the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Pilot Program, see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/CA_DNP_Bill.pdf.

The NightinGala Celebrates Nursing Research in Style

Friends of the National Institute for Nursing Research (FNINR) held their 2010 NightinGala celebration to support nursing research and nurse researchers at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC on September 29. AACN representatives at the event included AACN President Kathleen Potempa, President Elect Jane Kirschling and CEO/Executive Director Polly Bednash.

At the event, Lt. Col. Corina Barrow, MSN, RN, who serves as the Military Nurse Detailee in Senator Inouye’s office, presented a framed copy of Senate Resolution 642 to NINR Director Patricia Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, which celebrated NINR’s 25th Anniversary (featured in the photo to the left).

This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health. He addressed the vital role nursing research plays in improving patient care, preventing disease, and increasing health promotion. He also spoke of the need to increase funding for National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NINR. For more information on the 2010 NightinGala, please visit http://www.fninr.org/events.html.

AACN was delighted to host a table at the NightinGala and were thrilled to have (featured in the photo below from left) Jan Heinrich, Associate Administrator for the Bureau of Health Professions; LtCol Corina Barrow, Military Nurse Detailee to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI); AACN President Kathleen Potempa; Sheldon Fields, RWJ Health Policy Fellow in the Office of Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); Darlene Curley, Executive Director for the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence; Deborah Trautman, Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Policy; Peggy Wilmoth, RWJ Health Policy Fellow in the Office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); CEO and

Senate Celebrates NINR’s 25th Anniversary

The Senate passed a resolution on September 23, 2010, acknowledging NINR for its 25 years of service to America’s patients. The NINR was cited as being integral to the health of the U.S. population, providing innovative research to improve the quality of health care through work on disparities, vulnerable populations, and end-of-life issues. The role of the NINR in fostering and producing excellent nurse scientists was commended, as was its role in improving health outcomes through work on nursing care for health promotion and disease prevention of both acute and chronic illnesses. The resolution was submitted by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and was unanimously passed. The resolution can be viewed at: [http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.+Res.+642](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.+Res.+642).

NIH Announces New Program to Accelerate Research Independence

NIH will invest approximately $60 million over the next five years in the NIH Director's Early Independence Award (EIA) program to help junior investigators leapfrog over traditional post-doctoral training and move into independent academic positions at U.S. institutions directly upon completion of their graduate research degrees. Recent trends have demonstrated an increase in the length of the traditional scientific training period that often translates into an increase in the amount of time it takes for scientists to embark on independent research careers. These hurdles can result in valuable time lost by scientists in pursuit of independent biomedical research and deter students as they consider possible careers in biomedical research.

The deadline for submitting Early Independence Award applications is January 21, 2011. Additional information, including the funding announcement, is available at: [http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence](http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence).

ANA Discusses the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act

On November 4, 2010, the American Nurses Association (ANA) will host a critical discussion on the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act, 10 years after it was enacted. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet new ANA President Karen Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, who was instrumental in the Act’s passage. Panelists will discuss current trends in sharps injuries and what needs to be done to protect nurses and other healthcare professionals from this workplace hazard. The event, titled 10 Years after Legislation Was Enacted, How Safe are Health Care Professionals from Sharps?, will take place from 9:00-10:30 am at the National Press Club, Fourth Estate Room, 13th Floor, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C.