AACN President and Michigan Members Honor Senator Stabenow

On January 14, 2011, AACN President and Dean at the University of Michigan, School of Nursing, Kathleen Potempa presented Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) with AACN’s Congressional Appreciation Award for her tireless advocacy to support nursing education on Capitol Hill. Dr. Potempa along with her AACN member colleagues from Michigan, Drs. Sinutko, Pacini, Trewn, and Redman, thanked Senator Stabenow for her commitment to nursing education by supporting such programs as the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act) and most notably the Graduate Nursing Education demonstration program that was included in the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, Senator Stabenow is a member of the newly formed Senate Nursing Caucus.

AACN’s Congressional Appreciation Award serves as the association’s top recognition for Congressional advocates for nursing education and research in Congress. The bipartisan award has been bestowed upon such members as Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA), Representative Steve LaTourette (R-OH), Representative Tom Latham (R-IA), Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI). Since 2004, only 25 awardees have been recognized for their exceptional dedication to nursing education and research.

For more information on AACN’s Congressional Appreciation Awards see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/AppreciationAwards.pdf

Above, from left: Jaime Sinutko, Director, Rochester College School of Nursing; Christine Pacini, Dean, University of Detroit Mercy College of Health Professions; Senator Debbie Stabenow; Kathleen Potempa, Dean, University of Michigan School of Nursing; Peggy Trewn, Interim Director, Eastern Michigan University School of Nursing; Barbara Redman, Dean, Wayne State University College of Nursing.
House of Representative Considers Drastic Funding Cuts

The House of Representatives is currently finalizing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriations process. Under consideration is a Continuing Resolution (CR), H.R. 1, which Representative Harold Rogers (R-KY), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, introduced on February 11, 2011. As the largest cut to discretionary funding for the federal government in history, this CR would reduce spending by over $100 billion from the President’s FY 2011 budget request.

The CR proposes to cut the Nursing Workforce Development Programs and Health Professions Programs (Title VII and VIII, Public Health Service Act) by $145.1 million, a 29% decrease in funding over FY 2010 levels. Additionally, the CR proposes a reduction of over $1 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which includes the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). Funding for many of the federal health and education programs also have been reduced through this measure. For example, H.R. 1 proposes a cut of $1.3 billion for the Community Health Centers, $210 million for Maternal and Child Health Block Grants, and $96 million for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

AACN joined forces with 41 other national nursing organizations by sending a letter to House leadership opposing cuts to critical nursing programs in the CR. To view a copy of this letter, see: http://www.thenursingcommunity.org/#/fy-2011-appropriations/4542676084

Additionally, on Monday, February 14, 2011, AACN activated its grassroots network encouraging nearly 2,000 nursing education and researcher stakeholders to contact their House of Representative and request they protect funding for nursing in the final FY 2011 appropriations measure.

For the text of the bill, see: http://www.rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/legislativetext/2011crapprops/AppropCRFinal_xml.pdf

For a list of cuts, see: http://republicans.appropriations.house.gov/_files/ProgramCutsFY2011ContinuingResolution.pdf

President Releases His FY 2012 Budget and Supports Nursing

On February 14, 2011, President Obama released his FY 2012 Budget Request, which includes funding for critical nursing education and research programs. AACN recognizes that the Administration has remained committed to nursing by increasing the funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and Nurse Managed Health Clinics in this difficult fiscal atmosphere.

In AACN’s press release, President Kathleen Potempa remarked, “AACN appreciates President Obama’s dedication to nursing education by providing an increased level of support in this challenging economic climate. Given the demands on our healthcare system for highly educated nursing professionals, the President’s budget reinforces the Administration’s commitment to helping support the next generation of registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, and researchers.”

Of specific interest to nursing education and research, the President’s Budget Request proposes $313.075 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, $148 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, and $20 million for Nurse Managed Health Clinics.
If Congress accepts the President’s Budget Request, the Title VIII programs would receive as follows:

- Advanced Education Nursing: $104.438 million
- Nursing Workforce Diversity: $20 million
- Nursing Education Practice, Quality and Retention: $59.773 million
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program: $30 million
- Nurse Scholarship and Loan Repayment: $93.864 million
- Comprehensive Geriatric Nursing: $5 million

As Congress finalizes the FY 2011 appropriations process and begins work on FY 2012, AACN will work with our colleagues in the nursing and healthcare communities to support sustained funding increases for nursing education and research programs.

**President Obama Announces Nurse Leader as National Advisor**

On January 26, 2011, President Obama announced Susan Swider’s PhD, APHN-BC appointment as a member of the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health. Dr. Swider’s appointment to this prestigious consultative body presents a great opportunity to showcase the vital role public health nurses have in promoting the health of our nation.

Dr. Swider’s critical research on disease prevention, health promotion, and public health will inform the important work of the Advisory Group. Her unique perspective as an innovative nurse leader, especially her role as president of the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, will truly enhance the committee’s charge to develop and update standards for community and public health and other issues affecting preventative and integrative health care. This is especially true with the implementation of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* enacted last year. AACN congratulates Dr. Susan Swider!

For more information, see: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/26/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/26/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts)

**Final Days to Register for AACN’s Student Policy Summit**

AACN’s Student Policy Summit will coincide with AACN’s Spring Meeting and be held March 20-22, 2011. Only 23 slots remain so interested students should register soon! This Summit offers baccalaureate and graduate students from AACN member schools an insider’s look at federal policymaking on Capitol Hill. The keynote speaker will be Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

AACN is grateful to the Summit’s sponsors - the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, the Johnson and Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future, the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, Indiana/Perdue University at Indianapolis, and Loyola University New Orleans School of Nursing - whose generous donations have helped to support a robust agenda.

For more information on the Summit, see: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/sps.htm](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/sps.htm)  
To register, see: [https://www.aacn.nche.edu/Registration/registration.asp](https://www.aacn.nche.edu/Registration/registration.asp)
HHS Calls for Health Living Innovation Awards Nominations

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Healthy Living Innovation Awards. These awards will identify and acknowledge innovative health promotion projects that have demonstrated a significant impact on the health status of a community.

The Healthy Living Innovation Awards offer an exciting chance to recognize and foster the spread of effective health promotion efforts, specifically community-based efforts that either make use of an entirely new tool or approach or have applied existing tools in an unusual way to improve community health and well-being.

Eligible organizations must have an innovative project in at least one of three health promotion areas: healthy weight, physical activity, and nutrition. Nominated programs must have been piloted or implemented within the last three years and have demonstrated results. (Note: An innovation can be an existing program that has been implemented in a new way within the last three years.)

Nominations are currently being accepted. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2011. To nominate a program or obtain additional information on the 2011 Healthy Living Innovation Awards, please visit http://HealthyLivingInnovation.challenge.gov

Bringing Science to Life: The Interdisciplinary Advantage

Interdisciplinary translational research teams play a major role in advancing health research, but some disciplines — such as dentistry, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, public health, psychology, rehabilitation and social work — have not participated fully in these crucial team approaches.

On April 27, 2011, the National Center for Research Resources and the National Institute of Nursing Research will jointly sponsor a half-day meeting designed to improve interdisciplinary research participation. Bringing Science to Life: The Interdisciplinary Advantage will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association for Clinical Research Training and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science in Washington, D.C. Experts will share information about successful interdisciplinary collaborations that have advanced the translational trajectory from bench to bedside, and to community practice.

Presenters will:
- Identify opportunities and challenges when planning and conducting interdisciplinary research
- Highlight successful exemplars of interdisciplinary research
- Analyze essential components of interdisciplinarity and characteristics that enhance research
- Discuss and develop strategies to maximize diverse disciplinary strengths

There is no registration fee for this four-hour meeting; however, if you plan to attend the full conference, visit www.acrtraining.org/2011-annual-meeting/registration to learn more about fees. Space is limited for ACRT/SCTS meeting, so please register early. Discounted hotel rates are available until March 26, 2011. Visit www.acrtraining.org/2011-annual-meeting/ancillary-meetings to learn more.

For additional information or special accommodations, contact Dr. Donna Jo McCloskey at mccloskd@mail.nih.gov or 301-451-4216.
Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced a $750 million investment in prevention and public health, funded through the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the new health care law. Building on $500 million in investments last year, these new dollars will help prevent tobacco use, obesity, heart disease, stroke, and cancer; increase immunizations; and empower individuals and communities with tools and resources for local prevention and health initiatives.

“Prevention is something that can’t just happen in a doctor’s office. If we are to address the big health issues of our time, from physical inactivity to poor nutrition to tobacco use, it needs to happen in local communities,” said Sebelius. “This investment is going to build on the prevention work already under way to help make sure that we are working effectively across the federal government as well as with private groups and state and local governments to help Americans live longer, healthier lives.”

The Prevention and Public Health Fund, part of the Affordable Care Act, is designed to expand and sustain the necessary capacity to prevent disease, detect it early, manage conditions before they become severe, and provide states and communities the resources they need to promote healthy living. In FY2010, $500 million of the Prevention Fund was distributed to states and communities to boost prevention and public health efforts, improve health, enhance health care quality, and foster the next generation of primary health professionals.

This year, building on the initial investment, new funds are dedicated to expanding on four critical priorities:

**Community Prevention ($298 million):** These funds will be used to help promote health and wellness in local communities, including efforts to prevent and reduce tobacco use; improve nutrition and increase physical activity to prevent obesity; and coordinate and focus efforts to prevent chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

**Clinical Prevention ($182 million):** These funds will help improve access to preventive care, including increasing awareness of the new prevention benefits provided under the new health care law. They will also help increase availability and use of immunizations, and help integrate behavioral health services into primary care settings.

**Public Health Infrastructure ($137 million):** These funds will help state and local health departments meet 21st century challenges, including investments in information technology and training for the public health workforce to enable detection and response to infectious disease outbreaks and other health threats.

**Research and Tracking ($133 million):** These funds will help collect data to monitor the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the health of Americans and identify and disseminate evidence-based recommendations on important public health challenges.