AACN Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

This month marks the historic 50th anniversary of the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act). On September 4, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Title VIII programs through the Nurse Training Act (P.L. 58-851), creating the largest stream of federal funding dedicated to nursing education. In honor of the tremendous support Title VIII programs have provided to hundreds of thousands of nurses, nursing students, faculty, and academic institutions over the past five decades, AACN is committed to continuing to educate Congress and the public about why federal support for Title VIII remains a leading priority for the nursing profession and the health of the nation. Title VIII programs assist nursing students at all educational levels and are essential to ensuring a robust workforce of highly-educated nurses to care for patients across the country.

On September 8-9, AACN, as a member of the Nursing Community coalition, cosponsored an event to celebrate Title VIII’s 50th Anniversary. The Nursing Community includes 61 national nursing organizations and encompasses representation across the nursing profession. Leadership from over 30 of the coalition’s member organizations traveled to Washington, DC to participate in this occasion. Chair of AACN’s Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Dr. Anita Hufft from Texas Woman’s University represented AACN alongside staff during the event. On September 8, a briefing titled “Supporting the Health of America: Fifty Years of Bolstering the Nursing Workforce” was held on Capitol Hill in collaboration with the Senate Nursing Caucus and featured Mary Beth Bigley, DrPH, MSN, APRN, Director of the Division of Nursing and Public Health, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Margaret Wilmoth, PhD, MSS, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor at the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University and GAC member; and Kay Gentry, BSN, RN, a Master of Science in Nursing student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and current Title VIII recipient. Dr. Bigley provided an overview of the Title VIII programs and how they bolster the nursing workforce and address access to care issues. Dr. Wilmoth shared her perspectives as a former Title VIII recipient and how it led to her successful career in nursing academia leadership and the U.S. Army. Ms. Gentry shared her powerful, personal story of how Title VIII has enabled her to enter into the nursing profession.
On the evening of September 8, the Nursing Community held a reception titled “Honoring America’s Nursing Workforce” on Capitol Hill in collaboration with the House Nursing Caucus. The reception provided an opportunity for nursing leadership to connect with Members of Congress and their staff. Over 50 individuals representing 30 Congressional offices across 21 states from both the House and Senate were present at the reception. Members of Congress in attendance included: House Nursing Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and David Joyce (R-OH); Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC); Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC); Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA); and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).

The following day, representatives from Nursing Community organizations met with Congressional offices to discuss how Title VIII funding makes an impact in their state and across the nation, and emphasized the importance of strengthening and preserving this critical funding source.

**Mark Your Calendars: Join Us for AACN’s Virtual Advocacy Day on October 27**

On Monday, October 27, AACN will send a call to action to its Grassroots Network requesting they contact their legislators in support of Title VIII. On that day, AACN member deans and directors will be in Washington, DC for AACN’s Fall Semiannual Meeting, and they have been invited to attend an event to amplify AACN’s advocacy voice through the use of social media. Grassroots Network members will be encouraged to echo this message through an e-mail to their Members of Congress, as well as through Twitter.

For more information about the Nursing Workforce Development programs, including a historical overview and funding levels, see the brochure [Celebrating 50 Years of Success: Nursing Workforce Development Programs](#).

AACN is a member of the Nursing Community, a coalition of 61 national professional nursing association that convene to build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of health care and nursing issues. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nursing executives, nursing students, and nursing faculty. Visit the [Nursing Community website](#) for more information.

**Upcoming Webinars – Register Today!**

**The Health Insurance Marketplace: What Faculty and Students Need to Know for 2015**

**Date:** September 24, 2014 from 2:00-3:00pm ET

The next Open Enrollment Period for the Health Insurance Marketplace plans will occur November 15, 2014 – February 15, 2015. As this date quickly approaches, nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and nursing faculty are preparing to educate their students and patients on the marketplace changes. This webinar will address the topics faculty will want to be familiar with to adequately prepare their students for practice, including an overview of the Health Insurance Marketplace, changes for 2015, and information about the state exchanges.

Dr. Patricia Brennan, PhD, RN, will lead the webinar and offer her insights on these issue
areas. Dr. Brennan is a 2013 AACN Faculty Policy Intensive Fellow and Associate Professor at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland, California. For more information about the webinar, or to register, please click here.

The 2014 Midterm Federal Elections: What Nurses Need to Know
Date: October 9, 2014, from 3:00-4:00pm ET
The Nursing Community coalition will host a webinar centered on the upcoming midterm elections. Wade Delk, with the American Society for Pain Management Nursing, and Dave Mason, with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and National Nursing Centers Consortium, will discuss how to stay informed of the election process and how potential outcomes may impact nursing and healthcare policy. Attendees will learn how to maximize political tools, become informed voters, and ensure the profession’s voice is heard in the upcoming election.

To register, click here. Registration is open to AACN members as well as members of other Nursing Community organizations. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please register early.

AACN’s 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive Now Accepting Applications

AACN will hold its third annual Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) on March 23-26, 2015 in Washington, DC. This fully-funded, four-day immersion program is designed for faculty from AACN member schools who are interested in actively pursuing a role in healthcare and nursing policy. The FPI offers participants the opportunity to enhance existing knowledge of policy and advocacy through sessions that will strengthen 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.

For more information about FPI, including a draft agenda and application details, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Update

On September 9, 2014, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) introduced a short-term Continuing Resolution (H.J.Res.124). The government faces a potential shut-down that would occur at the end of FY 2014 (October 1, 2014) if an FY 2015 budget solution is not passed. According to a press release, "The legislation continues funding for government programs and services at the current annual cap rate of $1.012 trillion until December 11, 2014. This rate of funding will remain in place for the length of the continuing resolution, or until Congress approves the annual Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2015. The bill is "clean" and does not contain highly controversial provisions."

On September 15, Ranking Member of the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS-ED) Appropriations Subcommittee Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) released the Democrats’ draft FY 2015 LHHS-ED appropriations bill. The bill would provide a total of $155.7 billion in spending for federal programs, adhering to the FY 2015 allocation for the subcommittee’s net discretionary budget authority. A summary table and press release offer further details on the proposed spending package.

AACN will continue to keep you apprised as the FY 2015 appropriations process continues to unfold. Click here to learn more about AACN’s appropriations advocacy.
U.S. Senate Confirms Linda Spoonster Schwartz as Assistant Secretary to Veterans Affairs

On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, the United States Senate confirmed Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz as Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) for Policy and Planning.

Linda Spoonster Schwartz, DrPH, MSN, RN, FAAN, served as the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, a position she held for a decade after becoming the first woman to lead the Department. A retired Air Force nurse, Dr. Schwartz brings first-hand experience on the challenges facing today’s wounded veterans and will play a critical role in guiding the Department’s strategic planning and VA Secretary McDonald’s vision. AACN and 24 other professional nursing organizations sent a letter of support for Dr. Schwartz’s confirmation to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

For the full press release from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, please visit: http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2631.

Follow AACN on Twitter!

AACN stakeholders can now follow the association’s latest policy news through Twitter! AACN recently added two new features to its Twitter account. For the latest news from the Government Affairs Department, Twitter followers should look for the #AACNPolicy at the end of tweets. As the organization continues to advocate for nursing education, research and practice, #AACNPolicy is the quick link to see the most recent advocacy efforts. Funding announcements, recent publications, upcoming webinars, and the latest news from Congress are just a few of the topics featured on #AACNPolicy.

On September 2, 2014, AACN launched Top Story Tuesday. Every Tuesday a tweet will be featured with #TopStoryTues to headline various initiatives, webinars, or opportunities for members.
Follow us @AACNursing and stay up to date on the latest news from AACN: https://twitter.com/AACNursing.

Application Cycle Open for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 Health Policy Fellows. The fellowship program will take place in Washington, DC and provide Fellows with a comprehensive experience of health science, policy, and politics. Individuals chosen to participate in this highly selective program will engage in federal policy initiatives and leadership experiences to improve health, health care, and health policy on Capitol Hill.

For more information, interested applicants can join web conference calls on October 7, 2014 at 11:00am ET or November 6, 2014 at 2:00pm ET. To register, visit: http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1739190/RWJF-Health-Policy-Fellows-Informational-Web-Conference-Calls-2014.

Completed applications are due at 3:00pm on November 13, 2014. For more information or to apply, please visit: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows.
AcademyHealth Policy Opportunities

Health Policy Fellowship
The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and AcademyHealth are now accepting applicants for the NCHS/AcademyHealth Health Policy Fellowship. Two selected fellowship scholars will spend 13 months at NCHS campus in Hyattsville, Maryland.

During their time at NCHS, fellows will conduct studies of interest to policymakers and the health services research community, including conducting new and innovative analyses and participating in activities related to the design and content of future NCHS surveys. Additionally, fellows will also gain access to all NCHS data resources, work closely with NCHS staff on collaborative projects, and receive technical advice from experienced NCHS researchers.

Eligible applicants may be at any stage in their career, from doctoral students (must have completed course work and be at the dissertation phase of their program) to senior investigators, and must demonstrate training and/or experience in health services research and its methodology, especially quantitative data analysis, reflecting disciplines such as public health, public administration, healthcare administration, sociology, health economics, health statistics, anthropology, and behavioral sciences, or the health professions.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the Statement of Interest form online prior to applying. The deadline for completed applications is January 5, 2015. For more information please visit the application website: http://www.academyhealth.org/Training/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1441&navItemNumber=2332.

Presidential Scholarships
The Academy Health is now accepting applications for the Presidential Scholarship for the AcademyHealth Institute on Advocacy and Public Policy and the Presidential Scholarship for Child Health Policy. The scholarship will cover the cost of attending and money for travel for either the 2015 National Health Policy Conference or the 2015 National Child Health Policy Conference. The deadline for applications is Friday, October 13, 2014.

For more information on the Presidential scholarships, please visit the Academy Health Scholarship website.

2014 Million Hearts Hypertension Control Challenge Open

Million Hearts is encouraging small and large practices to enter this year’s Hypertension Control Challenge. Approximately 1 in 3 American adults battle hypertension and more than half of them, or 35 million people, do not have their high blood pressure under control. In past years, the campaign has recognized Hypertension Control Champions, which have included clinicians, practices, and health systems, that provide primary care and successfully treat patients who have high blood pressure.

This year’s challenge is accepting applications through October 10, 2014 and would like to recognize champions that achieved greater than 70% hypertension control rates with their patients. Individual clinicians, practices, clinics, as well as health systems within a U.S. federal department or agency, are eligible to enter. For more information and how to enter, please visit: http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/aboutmh/htn_champions.html.

NIH National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

On September 16, 2014, AACN attended the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research’s (NACNR) meeting at the National Institute of Health (NIH) campus in Bethesda, Maryland. NACNR helps to conduct grant application reviews and provide recommendations to NIH leadership. Dr. Patricia Grady, Director of National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), provided opening remarks to all attendees for the 84th meeting of NACNR. Discussions
focused on upcoming priorities and research opportunities for NINR. Additionally, the Division of Intramural Research, consisting of Biobehavioral, Symptom Management, and Tissue Injury, presented their latest research to the council. For more information and latest updates from NINR, please visit https://www.ninr.nih.gov/

**PCORI’s Board of Governors Approves Issuing Public Comment**

On September 15, 2014 the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) released a draft *Proposal for Peer Review of Primary Research and Public Release of Research Findings*. The PCORI Board of Governors is soliciting public comments on the proposed peer review process. The draft outlines how the institute plans to conduct future primary research. Input from patients and the healthcare community is a vital part of success. The comment period will run through **Friday, November 7, 2014**.

Interested participants will have several chances to offer feedback. On Monday, September 29, 2014, there will be a live public forum at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and on October 15, 2014 at 1:00pm ET there will be a webinar. To register for the live public forum click here, and to register for the webinar, please click here. For more information on the research findings and to submit comments, visit PCORI’s Provide Input page.