Leadership development has been a cornerstone of AACN’s programs and services since the association’s inception more than 40 years ago. Designed to provide enrichment experiences to today’s top administrators and prepare the next generation of academic leaders, AACN’s diverse menu of offerings serves all members of the nursing school enterprise, including deans, associate deans, program directors, faculty at all levels, administrative staff, and students. This brochure provides an overview of the many leadership development programs and opportunities available to individuals affiliated with AACN member schools.

Leadership Development Programs

FOR EXPERIENCED DEANS AND DIRECTORS

AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program

Introduced in 2012, the AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program is a world-class enrichment program for seasoned nursing school deans and directors hosted on-campus at the top-ranked Wharton School in Philadelphia, PA. The curriculum is designed to provide the concepts and tools needed to enhance leadership capacity and hone the skills essential to moving forward with a strategic vision. This program addresses issues related to managing and leading change, influencing and galvanizing a diverse set of stakeholders, and building enterprising relationships in highly volatile environments. Participants leave equipped with an advanced set of negotiation, leadership, and influencing skills, and the confidence and ability to serve on or lead high-powered boards. This four-day immersion program is made possible in part by a grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence funded by the Jonas Family Fund. Selection is competitive and applications are due in the spring.
Leadership for Academic Nursing Program

Created to help prepare a more diverse pool of leaders for nursing schools offering baccalaureate and higher degrees, the prestigious Leadership for Academic Nursing Program (LANP) is designed to enhance the executive leadership skills of mid- to upper-level faculty who aspire to lead the nursing academic unit. This program features an intensive five-day seminar during the summer months, focused assessment activities, facilitation of a mentorship experience, opportunities for follow-up with seminar faculty, and idea and resource sharing among cohort colleagues. LANP focuses on imparting key leadership competencies needed in complex nursing education and healthcare environments. *Selection is competitive and applications are due in the spring.*

New Dean Mentoring Program

AACN’s New Dean Mentoring Program matches experienced deans with those new to the role for a period of mutual development. New deans self-identify areas of concern and establish the method and frequency of communication with their volunteer mentors. Mentors counsel and advise their new colleagues on the role of the dean and familiarize them with AACN services, in addition to accomplishing the goals set by their mentee. Deans are matched according to their responses to a questionnaire, while program type, size, and location are also taken into account when matches are made. As part of the program, participants also receive materials to assist them in developing a successful mentoring relationship.

Dean 101 Webinar Series

The popular Dean 101 Webinar series provides new and aspiring academic leaders with practical advice and insights from those who have lived the experience. With new Webinars under development, past presentations may be accessed on-demand via AACN’s Online Collaboration Community, including sessions titled *Qualities and Skills of an Effective Dean; Legal Aspects of Academic Nursing; Cultivating Student Relations; Developing Effective Faculty Relations; Transitioning to the Role of the Chief Academic Officer for Nursing; and Fund-raising and Friend-raising for Your Nursing Program.*
Executive Development Series (EDS)
AACN’s Executive Development Series (EDS) increases the knowledge and skills needed for successful leadership in a school of nursing at a time of complex and accelerating change. Featuring noted experts in leadership development, the format of the EDS meetings encourages discussion among participants as well as application of program content to one’s own setting. Topics change each year and offer insights into the responsibilities faced by nursing school leaders in a variety of administrative roles.

Summer Seminar
Every July, interested deans and faculty gather to discuss nursing education issues and engage in executive development focused on a timely topic reflecting the needs of today’s busy professional. This annual event allows participants to explore critical concerns in academia in a setting that is far away from the pressures of daily administration. Themes and topics address contemporary issues in nursing higher education and provide executive development for aspiring, new, and experienced deans as well as others in academic leadership positions.

To find out more about AACN’s upcoming conferences focused on leadership, see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/conferences.
FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS WITH AN INTEREST IN PUBLIC POLICY

Faculty Policy Intensive

Designed to enhance leadership skills in healthcare policy, the new Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) provides an insider’s look at policy making and the keys to successful advocacy engagement. Participants will strengthen their understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal agencies, national nursing organizations, and individual advocates. Faculty attending will meet legislators, agency heads, Capitol Hill staff, and organizational leaders to discuss policy initiatives important to nursing. Participation is limited to eight faculty each year who will be selected to attend this hands-on enrichment opportunity.

Student Policy Summit

The Student Policy Summit (SPS) is open to graduate and undergraduate students at AACN member schools with an interest in shaping public policy. Each year, students gather in Washington, DC for a three-day conference focused on nursing policy and healthcare advocacy. In addition to programmatic sessions, attendees will visit their members of Congress and Congressional staff with deans in town for AACN’s Spring Annual Meeting. The deans and students will share with Congressional leaders the importance of nursing education and research as it relates to the health of our nation. Scholarships are available for up to two students.

For more information on opportunities to engage in government advocacy, see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs.
Leadership Development Opportunities

Be a Leader Among Leaders

Nursing school deans and directors are encouraged to maximize their membership in AACN by becoming a leader within the organization. AACN provides many opportunities for members to have an impact on nursing education at the national level through participation on task forces, committees, the Board of Directors, and in other high profile capacities. These opportunities facilitate leadership development and allow members to concentrate on areas of particular interest.

AACN realizes that our success is driven by our membership, and we are proud that more than 20% of our members currently serve in leadership capacities within the association. We also understand that if more members are actively engaged in the organization, AACN’s policies and decisions will more closely reflect the views of our constituents. We encourage you to consider becoming a leader among leaders by volunteering your time and energy to advancing AACN mission and goals.

Affiliated deans and directors are encouraged to complete the online AACN Member Interest and Expertise Survey so we can consider you for specific leadership opportunities. See http://www.aacn.nche.edu/membership.

Leadership Opportunities Forum

AACN member deans and directors are encouraged to attend the Leadership Opportunities Forum held during the Spring Annual Meeting. AACN’s President-Elect hosts this informal gathering to share information about how members can actively engage in moving the association’s goals and mission forward. Details on this annual event are available in the Spring Meeting conference brochure.

Find out more about all of the leadership development programs and opportunities available through AACN at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/leadership.
Leadership Networks

AACN’s Leadership Networks provide a forum for peers to share best practices and success stories, sharpen leadership skills, participate in professional development activities, and take full advantage of AACN resources. The Networks facilitate and encourage information sharing and discussion of key issues among nursing school faculty and staff at member institutions. Networking within these groups is accomplished through programs, meetings and online communications.

Membership is Available in Seven Leadership Networks:

- Business Officers of Nursing Schools
- Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals
- Instructional Leadership
- Nursing Advancement Professionals
- Organizational Leadership
- Practice Leadership
- Research Leadership

To find out more about the individual Networks and how to join, see [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/networks](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/networks).