

AACN AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AND CAPSTONE PROJECT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

AACN has created this new awards program to recognize and showcase outstanding dissertations and capstone projects completed by students in research- and practice-focused doctoral programs. Many doctoral students are advancing ground-breaking research and practice innovations that are worthy of national recognition and could serve as exemplars for other students to emulate. Two awards will be presented at AACN's annual Doctoral Education Conference in January 2013:

- **Excellence in Advancing Nursing Science Award** for an outstanding dissertation from a student in a PhD in nursing or DNS program. A dissertation is an original research project that focuses on advancing nursing science and developing new evidence with the potential to guide nursing practice.
- **Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice Award** for an outstanding capstone project from a student in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. A capstone project demonstrates high-level mastery of an area of advanced nursing practice and focuses on the translation of evidence into practice.

Award Criteria:

- Dissertation/capstone project has the potential to advance nursing science, education, practice, and/or policy. Scholarly ideas show great promise and originality, and contribute new knowledge to the profession.
- *Dissertation Award:* Adds to the scientific base for nursing practice; advances understanding of a critical nursing issue; and demonstrates methodological sophistication.
- *Capstone Award:* Demonstrates a measurable improvement or impact on care delivery and/or patient outcomes; may be replicated in other settings.
- Only dissertations and capstone projects that have been successfully defended may be considered for an award. Students must have completed their dissertation/capstone between August 2011 and September 2012.
- Awards are offered for "early career" doctoral program students/graduates. Students with previous doctoral degrees will not be considered.
- Student projects must be consistent with AACN's mission and vision.

Nomination Process:

Nominations may be made by the dean, doctoral department chair, dissertation committee chair, or capstone project advisor. One nomination for each program type may be sent from an individual school of nursing. The nomination letter must include:

- a. Description of the dissertation or capstone project, including projected outcomes. Letter may incorporate the original abstract and must not exceed 3 pages in length, single-spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins. The nomination letter must clearly convey how the award criteria are met. Contact information for the nominator must be included.
- b. A personal statement and CV from the nominated student outlining implementation goals for new science/systems improvement, including progress toward publishing and/or disseminating their final work. Contact information for the student must be included.

Continued on Reverse

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Nomination Process Continued:

A selection committee will review all complete nominations received and select awards finalists. This committee reserves the right to decide not to recommend an award in any given year. Award finalists must be approved by the AACN Board of Directors.

All nominations must be received by December 7, 2012. Winners will be notified by December 21, 2012 to enable them to make plans to attend the AACN Doctoral Education Conference in late January 2013.

All nomination materials must be sent electronically or via the postal service to:

Anna Kathryn Pierce
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
One Dupont Circle, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036
apierce@aacn.nche.edu

Please direct any questions related to this awards program to AACN's Faculty Programs Director Catherine Cox at ccox@aacn.nche.edu.

Award Presentation and Promotion

- The doctoral student/graduate receiving an award will be invited to accept the honor at the annual AACN Doctoral Education Conference planned for January 23-26, 2013 in San Diego, CA. Expenses related to attending the conference (transportation, hotel, registration) will be reimbursed by AACN. Travel expenses, including economy airfare and transportation to and from the hotel, will be reimbursed up to \$500.
- The award will be given by the AACN President at the commencement of the conference with the recipient being asked to come to the podium to present a brief overview of their work.
- The award includes a "symbol" of appreciation and a \$1,000 check. Winners will be announced via AACN publications and on the Website.
- Abstracts of award winners will be referred to the Program Committee for possible presentation at an AACN

