

CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1 ~ SPRING 2010

A MESSAGE *from the President*



Anne Loochtan
NN2 President

“The most important ingredient is people: dedicated, passionately interested people.”

What makes an all-volunteer organization work? Or better yet, what makes an all-volunteer organization NOT work? The most important ingredient is people: dedicated, passionately interested people; people who believe in the mission of the organization; people who are willing to go the extra mile. Probably equally important is the mission of the organization. In order for the people to be passionate and dedicated, the organization has to have a clear sense of what it is and what is its mission.

NN2 is the ONLY recognized voice for healthcare programs at two-year colleges, and it is our best vehicle for having a voice ‘at the table’ when policy and funding decisions are being made. However, we also need people to help make this happen. Dues-paying members of all types help us to afford to be at the table, and passionate members serve in advocacy roles. Without both of these, we could not have an impact.

The strength of our NN2 voice and our ability to influence decisions that, in turn, influence our colleges and our programs, depends on solid membership. It’s up to each of us both individually and collectively to continue to get the word out to our colleagues about the importance of joining and becoming active in NN2.

In order to strengthen NN2 and enhance our ability as an organization to influence critical decisions and policies, each of us

must make NN2 memberships one of our priorities for the coming year. I hope to see each of you next year in Louisville, and I ask you to bring at least ONE new member with you.

Indeed, NN2 is at a crossroads. The impact of the economy, the graying of America (including faculty, administrators and health care workers), the absolute necessity to be not only technologically literate but also competent as an organization, and finally, the need to serve the underserved, all are coming together to create the perfect storm...or, for NN2, the perfect opportunity. As we move into the second decade of the 21st century, we need to look at better ways of doing things, while still remaining true to our purpose.

My pledge to you for this year:

1. Communicate better and more often with the membership
2. Bring vendors and sponsors into the communication loop
3. Continue to work toward being nationally recognized as a resource for information regarding career ladders and healthcare workforce issues
4. Increase membership and the awareness of NN2
5. Significantly increase advocacy relationships
6. Begin to investigate grants for special projects

I hope that all of you have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

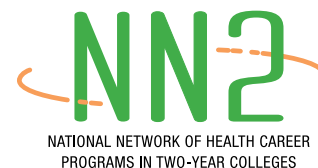


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Editor’s Note:

NN2 strives to prepare a newsletter that is informative to members. We encourage the submission of information and best practices related to health career education and training, which you think will be helpful to other members. Articles may be submitted to Janell Lang, NN2 Connections Editor, by email: janell_lang@owens.edu.

NN2 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Fall 2009, Dallas, Texas LaCheeta McPherson and Sondra Flemming

Dallas' Fairmont Hotel in the historic west end was the setting for the 22nd Annual Conference for NN2. The theme for the three-day event was "Making the Pieces Fit in Health Care Education".

The attendees were welcomed by Dr. Wright Lassiter, Chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District and Dr. Paul McCarthy, President of El Centro College.

Dr. Marcia Brand, Deputy Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was the keynote speaker for the first day. She shared her insights regarding the impact of the new presidential administration on healthcare funding. She also spent time listening to the concerns expressed by the attendees and answering numerous questions.

Presentations on drug screening, criminal background checks, accreditation and advocacy were provided on the first full day. Ample time was given for networking, including a round table activity of issues and best practices. On the second day the keynote speaker was Ms. Tricia Scott, Division Director for Workforce Development for the North Texas Division for HCA (Healthcare Corporation of America). Her presentation stressed the need for collaboration to meet workforce goals. Breakout sessions addressed retention, curriculum, and leadership.

Attendees enjoyed three evenings of networking and downtown venues that included the City Club (located atop the tallest building in Dallas), The Old Red Courthouse and Museum for a "Taste of Texas" and Eddie Dean's Ranch for an evening of Texas Bar-B-Que, music and karaoke.

The 22nd Annual Conference also had the largest vendor presentations in the history of the organization. Nineteen vendors demonstrated their products and services.



Conference Participants at Work



State of the Art Laboratory at DCCCD



Conference Participants at Play

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(AACC) Fall 2009 Meeting Barbara Jones

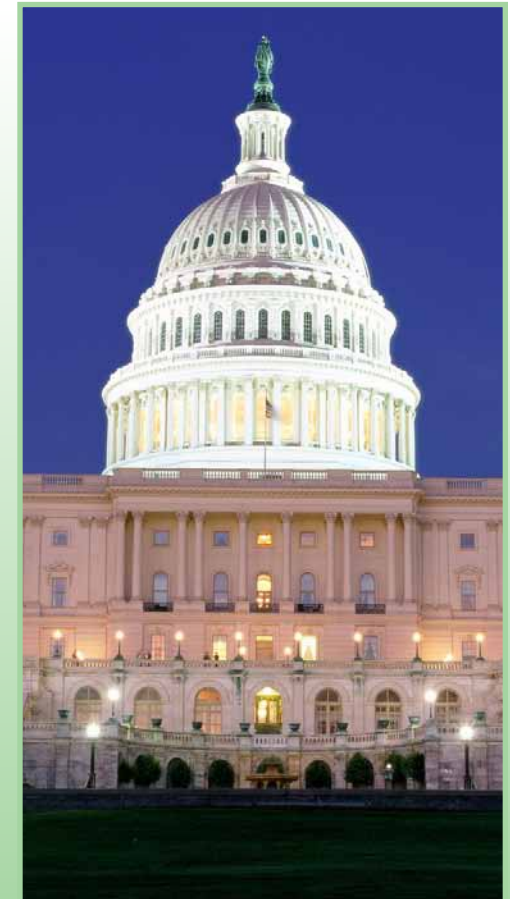
The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Fall Meeting was held on November 10-13, 2009 in Washington DC. The Fall AACC meeting includes information sessions and meetings of the AACC Board of Directors, Council of Affiliated Councils, Commissions, and Board Committees. NN2 is a Council Affiliate. Dr. Carolyn O'Daniel represented NN2 at the Council Affiliate meeting, as well as serving on the Commission for Economic and Workforce Development. Dr. Barbara Jones, Past-President of NN2, serves on the Board of Directors, is the NN2 Council Liaison, and is the current Chair of the Commission for Economic and Workforce Development.

The AACC Fall Meeting provided information and discussions on many issues relevant to community colleges. Legislative updates on the status of the American Graduation Initiative and other legislation were provided. The AACC staff provided updates on various AACC projects, publications, and programs. The Board received reports from the U.S. Department of Labor (Jane Oates), National

Science Foundation (Celeste Carter) and the U.S. Department of Education-Office of Vocational and Adult Education (Gail Schwartz). The Obama administration has indicated its intent to work with community colleges on many initiatives related to workforce development, training, STEM fields, and economic stimulus.

The AACC Board of Directors had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with Hilda Solis, Secretary of the Department of Labor at the DOL on Tuesday prior to the Fall meeting. Secretary Solis indicated that this was a "listening" session for her and her staff. Issues discussed included the renewal of the Workforce Investment Act, community college interaction with Workforce Investment Boards, health care shortages and education, training grants, "green" jobs, small business development, and other topics.

The AACC Board of Directors also set in motion the Presidential search process, as Dr. George Boggs has indicated that he will retire in December 2010.



AACC AFFILIATE COUNCIL MEETING *Report*

Carolyn O'Daniel

According to AACC Executive Director George Boggs, several issues are currently engaging AACC attention and effort, some of which are:

- The economic impact on surging enrollments and funding cuts
- An increased national focus on student success/completion
- Alignment of educational standards
- Globalization
- The skills gap/STEM competitiveness
- The aging population
- Returning veterans, many with severe disabilities
- Leadership Development & Accountability/Transparency

Relative to the list issue, Dr. Boggs mentioned the "Voluntary Framework for Accountability," a 2-year Gates-funded project that is intended to provide some leadership for efforts to expand accountability.

There was discussion regarding booth space at the AACC Conference now being full price for affiliate councils, but booth sharing will be permitted. The Council voted to ask the AACC Board to reconsider reducing booth rates for affiliate members. AACC staff member Delinda Frazier reported that the recent COAC Survey yielded 18 responses from the 28 councils. She reported much interest in an affiliate council website (now available) and interest in marketing and information sharing. She then described the

new affiliate council webpage on the AACC site. Workgroups will pursue other ideas generated by the survey.

Some affiliate council representatives expressed interest in collaborating with others to offer concurrent conferences in order to maximize visibility and efficiency. Some are also considering webinars as an alternative to meetings that require high-cost travel.



CONSTRICTING NURSING PIPELINE WOULD EXACERBATE SHORTAGES, REDUCE ACCESS

George R. Boggs
President, American Association of Community Colleges

A new report on nursing education released this week by the Carnegie Foundation examines well-known and persistent challenges in providing the quantity and quality of nursing professionals needed to safeguard the nation's health. But its findings are incomplete and, in some instances, misleading.

The report argues that all RNs should attain at least a bachelor's degree for entry into practice and to ensure quality care. This is an assertion of some concern to the nation's community colleges, which currently prepare close to half of all new nurses. Yet only one community college program of the nine that researchers visited was included in the study, and a key professional association representing associate degree programs was pointedly excluded.

The report further notes that part of the reason for the nation's existing and worsening shortage of new nurses is that there are too few qualified faculty – those with the MSN (master's in nursing science) degree. An expert quoted in the report notes that too few associate degree nurses go on to earn the bachelor's degree, implying that this reduces the number of potential candidates to enter MSN programs. Yet a bachelor's degree is not necessarily a requirement for advanced study, since 163 graduate-level MSN programs currently enroll associate degree nurses without requiring a bachelor's

degree. The expert further misstates the number of nurses with associate degrees who go on to earn a bachelor's degree as 16% when federal data indicate nearly 21% do so. Further, 54,000 RNs with associate degrees achieve a master's degree in nursing.

The U.S. Department of Labor projects a need for 1.2 million new and replacement RNs by 2014. Yet only 700,000 can be trained with current capacity. In 2005, the National League for Nursing reported that RN programs turned away 150,000 qualified applicants. At most of the 700+ community colleges offering RN programs, wait lists of students unable to enroll due to capacity limitations are common and growing.

The importance of associate degree programs is especially critical to our rural communities, where 70% of new nurses are prepared via associate degree programs. In these small, sometimes remote locales, access to a four-year institution may be limited. And for minority students aspiring to a health care career, community colleges are also the most often chosen option.

It has been documented that associate degree nursing professionals pass the NCLEX test required to practice in the profession at rates similar to candidates prepared in bachelor's programs and have a 98% placement rate within six months of graduation. It's clear that the nation's health care employers see

nurses with associate degrees as qualified and desirable professionals.

One final note: The methodology of the study raises substantial concerns. The researchers make broad policy recommendations after visiting only nine institutions. To accurately understand the condition of nursing education, and subsequently make the sweeping recommendations put forth in the book, visits to numerous institutions would have bolstered the evidence and the broad applicability.

The researchers, many from the same institution, did not include the National Association of Associate Degree Nurses as a survey partner. Further, advance praise for the book comes from individuals in graduate programs or from other academically-oriented backgrounds who clearly have a vested interest and a not-so-hidden agenda.

At a time when the nation has an urgent and growing need for nurses and other health care professionals, we fail to see the logic or the advisability of constricting the nursing pipeline to reduce the number of graduates. We should be encouraging more students to aspire to nursing careers, then expanding support for and access to nursing programs at every level. To do otherwise is not only ill-advised, it is irresponsible.



2009 - 2010 NN2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Top Row, Left to Right:
Lois Simmons, Secretary
Sharman Willmore, Member-at-Large
Greg Ferenczak, Member-at-Large
Pat Munzer, Treasurer
Geneva Baker, Member-at-Large
Pat Harris, Member-at-Large
Cullen Johnson, Executive Director

Bottom Row, Left to Right:
Anne Loochtan, President
Carolyn O'Daniel, President Elect

Not pictured:
Becki Evans, Member-at-Large

HEALTH PROFESSIONS NETWORK (HPN) FALL 2009 CONFERENCE

Janell Lang



Cullen Johnson, NN2 Executive Director, and Janell Lang, NN2 Past President, attended the Fall 2009 HPN Conference in Tampa, FL in September. The theme of the conference, Healthcare Reform, was highlighted by keynote speaker Cecil Wilson, MD, president-elect of the American Medical Association, and carried through the meeting through its other speakers. These included Robert G. Brooks, MD, MBA, MHP, associate vice president for health care leadership at the University of South Florida, who provided an historical perspective of American health and predicted its future.

N. Lynn Barnes, M.Ed., Director of Education, Society of Nuclear Medicine, presented current information to the audience regarding increasingly stringent compliance requirements for physicians and renewed attention to commercial relationships between health care professions and pharmaceutical firms/medical device manufacturers.

Stephen Collier, PhD, Professor, and Harold Jones, PhD, both of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, spoke on the topic of The Changing Landscape of Health Professions Education and provided participants much

food for thought on planning instructional programs for the future.

In preparation for the Spring 2010 HPN Conference, to be held in Washington DC March 3-6, which will include a visit to Capital Hill, Amy Callendar, Federal Legislative Manager and Treasurer, National Athletic Trainers' Association, gave a practical primer on how to communicate with one's legislators.

These presentations may be viewed on the HPN website: www.healthpronet.org/newsletters/Nov09.html In addition, HPN future initiatives include a Health Care Workforce Summit, scheduled for May-19-20 in Chicago. The day and one-half meeting will examine in depth the issues, concerns and resolutions of health care workforce needs confronting the higher education community. As it becomes available, more information will be posted on both the HPN and NN2 websites.

NN2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Cullen Johnson

As of January 30, the following institutions have renewed their membership for 2010:

- Anne Arundel Community, Arnold, MD
- Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing, NJ
- Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY
- Central Community College, Hastings, NE
- Community College of Baltimore Co.-Essex, Baltimore, MD
- Delaware Technical & Community College, Wilmington, DE
- El Centro College, Dallas, TX
- El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX
- Erie Community College, Williamsville, NY
- Jefferson Community and Technical College, Louisville, KY
- Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
- Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL
- Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI
- Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
- Middlesex Community College-Bedford, Lowell, MA
- Milwaukee Area Tech. College/Health Occupations Division, Milwaukee, WI
- Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY
- Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA
- Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL
- Northern Wyoming Community College District, Sheridan, WY
- North West Arkansas Community College, Bentonville, AR
- Owens Community College, Toledo, OH
- Palm Beach Community College, Lake Worth, FL
- Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD
- Southwest Georgia Technical College, Thomasville, GA
- University of Cincinnati, Clermont College, Batavia, OH

NN2 appreciates these renewals and the new Institutional Memberships for 2010. In addition, The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) has become a sponsor for 2010.

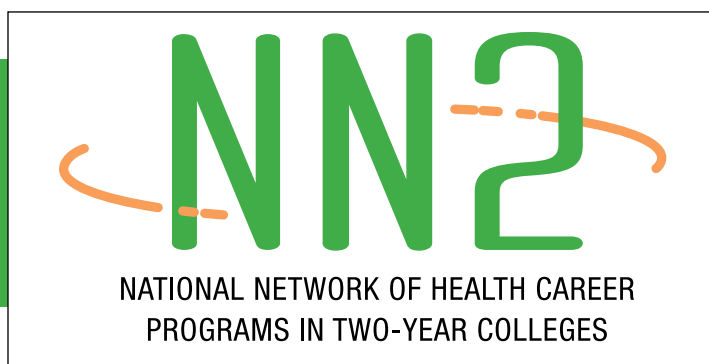
Nominations for Positions on the Board of Directors

It is time for you to be thinking about how you can support NN2. One way that you can help is by serving on the Board. There will be four positions that must be filled in 2010, so we are asking that you consider donating your time and energy to help advance NN2. The positions of secretary and 3 Board Members-at-Large must be filled this year. Each of these positions will require a two-year commitment. Although it may seem like a long time, your talents will only be required at various times throughout the two-year term. The Board conducts the majority of its business via telephone conferences throughout the year, but does hold a yearly Board Retreat, which is held in the fall immediately following the NN2 Annual Conference. NN2 can only be successful if its members volunteer to serve on the Board or on various committees. Please consider one of these positions.

The Nominations Committee will be seeking candidates for these positions in the coming months. Please consider accepting the invitation to run for one of these positions or volunteer yourself. Encourage one of your colleagues to run for an office if your time is limited.

If you want further information on these positions, refer to the NN2 website or contact the Executive Director of NN2 at 1.800.592.1299 PIN 50.

Gregory Ferenchak



Emerging Issues & Outreach Committee

Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee. Please contact Greg Ferenchak at gferenchak@broward.edu Please feel free to forward any issues/concerns/topics you would like to see this committee monitor and report back to the membership.



Hotel Information:
The Brown Hotel
Louisville, KY 40202
888-888-5252
www.brownhotel.com

URL:
https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_login.cfm?hotelID=13721

Attendee Code:
Nat'l Network of Health

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name (as it should appear on your badge). Please print or type carefully.

Please check ALL that apply € Board Member € Member € Non Member € Speaker € Vendor € Presenter

Position Title _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

REGISTRATION ~ PAYMENT

FULL MEETING ~ OCTOBER 6-8			FEE INCLUDES
PAYMENT RECEIVED	BEFORE SEPT 3	AFTER SEPT 3	
Member Registration	€ \$400	€ \$450	Wednesday ~ Evening Reception
Non-Member Registration (Includes 1 year membership)	€ \$465	€ \$550	Thursday ~ Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
1-Day Only (specify)	€ \$200	€ \$265	Friday ~ Breakfast, Lunch & Reception
ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS			SPECIAL NEEDS
Additional Guest Lunch Day 1	€ \$30		€ Special Assistance On Site
Additional Guest Lunch Day 2	€ \$30		€ Special Dietary Needs
Additional Guest Event Dinner	€ \$50		€ Other
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE	\$ _____		

Make Check Payable to NN2
Mail Check & Registration to Jefferson Community & Technical College, ATTN: Carolyn O'Daniel, 109 E Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202

No refunds will be processed after Sept 2, 2010. A \$100 processing fee will be charged on all refunds. Refund requests must be post-marked before Sept 2. For multiple registrations from a single institution, please include a separate registration form. Prior to September 2, institutions registering 3 or more participants may register all participants at the member rate.

National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2)
Newsletter Office
Attn: Janell Lang, Ed.S.
Assistant Director, Faculty Development
Owens Community College
PO Box 10,000
Toledo, OH 43699

Membership Application

Name: _____

Title: _____

College / Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Type of Membership: (Check one)

- Individual: \$65 Professional Organization/Agency: \$500
 Institutional: \$225 Corporate: \$750

Please make your check payable to:

National Network of Health
Career Programs in
Two-Year College

Mail your check and completed membership application to :

National Network of Health
Career Programs in
Two-Year College
Attention: Cullen Johnson
Executive Director
714 Harsh Road
Marblehead, OH 43440