

Connections

A Message from the President

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Summer 2006



Barbara Jones
NN2 President

The landscape of health professions continues to morph and change. It seems that the workforce shortages are cyclical; however, with the documented aging baby boomers, increased retirements of health professionals and health professions educators, the shortage is a crisis. Emergency preparedness came to the forefront with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita striking our Gulf Coast last Fall. These natural disasters tested our health care systems, federal government, Homeland Security, public health agencies, as well as local, state, and federal agencies. We learned many lessons from these events, but are we ready for other natural disasters? We have heard about the potential bird flu pandemic. Are our health care systems in place to respond?

The 2006 NN2 Annual Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, hosted by Trident Technical College, will address some of these questions. Please make plans to attend the meeting in historic Charleston. This newsletter contains much information about the conference. In addition to informative and interesting speakers, we will have time for fun, networking, and even a health awareness walk. Make sure to pack your tennis shoes!

As the newsletter conveys, representatives of NN2 have been involved in various activities to “promote and encourage innovation, collaboration, and communication among two-year colleges sponsoring health career programs.” Representatives have participated in the Health Professions Network (HPN), Commission for Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), Association of Specialized Accreditors (ASPA), American

Association of Community Colleges (AACC), AACC Commission for Economic and Workforce Development, Health Professions Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), FuturePoint Summit, and other health-related accrediting organizations. In particular, we have become involved as a Council of the American Association of Community Colleges. This enabled us to have a booth on Council Row at the Academic Marketplace, present at a forum, and participate in meetings at the AACC Annual Convention in Long Beach, California in April. These associations have allowed us to collaborate with other organizations and create awareness of NN2 and health-related professions through publications, presentations, and collaborations.

As you noticed in the previous newsletter, NN2 has a new logo. The logo represents the academic colors for allied health and nursing professions – green and peach. At its annual retreat in 2005, the Executive Board determined that NN2 needed to be more visible on a national front. To help accomplish this, marketing and branding materials were needed that would be more energetic and recognizable. To that end, the board commissioned Kevin Martin of Martin Creative to design a new logo. The logo design better reflects the “networking” nature of NN2. The swish loops in the logo convey the energy of NN2, and the new colors are more dynamic. The new loop will soon appear on the website, stationery, and marketing materials.

It is hard to believe that my two-year term as President of the National Network of Health Care Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2) will be coming to a close at the annual meeting in October. As stated by Senator Robert Kennedy:

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.”

I am proud of the small, but incremental changes and progress we have made as an organization during my tenure. I will continue to support and promote NN2, as I truly believe in the mission of our organization. The October 10 – 13, 2007 meeting in Cincinnati will mark our organization’s 20th anniversary. It is a good time to reflect and celebrate the history of events and accomplishments of NN2.

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Emerging Issues Committee



Lois Simmons

The Emerging Issues Committee has been exchanging ideas over the summer and offers the following sampling of current issues for your consideration. The committee welcomes your comments about these issues or suggestions for any other items to add to our list.

Examining emerging issues in the nursing field, the Maryland Board of Nursing added information management and disaster response content requirements to its Nurse Refresher course effective April 24, 2006. The Nurse Refresher course is designed for those RNs and LPNs who do not meet the current licensure requirements for the state of

Maryland, but who wish to return to nursing.

Another issue in nursing practice is professionalism. One central Maryland hospital's nursing staff recently began wearing white uniforms to differentiate nurses from other employees. Leadership and professional development are becoming more of an integral part of nursing curricula. Hagerstown Community College (MD) encourages students to attend day-long health professions seminars. Nursing students attend sessions ranging from skills based topics, such as advanced stethoscope training and infusion therapy to leadership practice and the latest information on trauma and critical care from nationally-recognized professionals. These seminars provide students an opportunity to network with working nurses and other health care professionals.

Information from several states seems to indicate increased involvement of the hospital risk managers when students are placed at clinical sites. A number of VA hospitals in Maryland and Texas have required that students be identified by social security numbers and be

fingerprinted. One facility used by an OTA program in Baltimore has required students to carry their own malpractice insurance in addition to the malpractice insurance provided by the college. Tacoma Community College (WA) notes that as affiliation contracts are being renewed, there is increased specification concerning what the colleges will provide to the agency and what will be required of students. A new development for some colleges is the requirement that all students provide proof of health care insurance to the clinical sites. Moreover, criminal background checks for all allied health students is a requirement that continues to be discussed and implemented in many of our colleges.

If you wish to add a comment or place another item to our list, please contact Angela Stoops at stoopsa@hagerstowncc.edu or Lois Simmons at lsimmons@ccbcmd.edu. Other committee members: Patricia Harris, Diane Hunter, Bridgit Moore, Annie McElroy, Carol Riesenberg, LaCheeta McPherson, and Patricia Brown.

Marketing Committee



Luanne Olson

The Marketing Committee has been hard at work for the membership this year. We have helped to select a new logo for NN2. Logo colors were selected from our associated regalia: green for allied health and peach for nursing. We are hoping for a positive response to our new look.

You will see the new logo throughout our promotional items. We have purchased post-it pads and will have the capacity to make a customized luggage tag at our Fall Conference. Additionally, we will have some

snazzy new t-shirts that you can wear during a group boardwalk at our Fall Conference. The t-shirts are our gift to you for attending the conference. Just think, we will be promoting health and our professions at the same time. *See you there.*



ASPA

Association of Specialized & Professional Accreditors

The Spring 2006 ASPA meeting was held in Chicago March 26 – 28. The program focused upon the following topics:

- ASPA meets AQIP: Focus on Quality and Implications for Specialized Accreditation
- Legal Issues in Accreditation
 - Updates on Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)
 - Implications of the Spellings Commission on the Future of Higher Education

- Assessment of Program Outcomes: Expectations of the “Drivers” and the “Driven”

Members of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP), the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges (NN2) and representatives from several professional health accrediting agencies and organizations attended the Pre-ASPA meeting. Included on the agenda for discussion were:

- The clinical doctorate

- Plans for the ASAHP Education Summit in August, to which NN2 representatives have been invited

- Public disclosure of accreditation status
- Standard accreditation terminology
- Training site visitors
- Collaborative site visits and consistency in expectations
- Outcomes and processes

Health Professions Meeting *March 16 – 19, 2006*

The Health Professions Network (HPN) meeting was held in the Buckhead section north of Atlanta, Georgia in March. Helping raise awareness of allied health among policymakers and the public, urging increased federal funding for allied health education, is the goal of the Health Professions Network (www.healthpronet.org). This nationwide collaborative group of nearly 200 organizations represent leading allied health professional associations, accrediting agencies, and educational institutions, as well as federal and state workforce analysts and licensing / certification bodies.

NN2 representatives, Cullen Johnson, Executive Director, Janell Lang, President-Elect, and Barbara Jones, President, joined approximately 60 other attendees at the meeting. The sessions were very informative, with speakers from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration, Minnesota Department of Health-Office of Emergency Preparedness, universities, and health care systems providing helpful information on various health-related topics to include:

- Frontline Health and the Health Care Workforce
- Supporting and Expanding Public Health Research: A CDC Perspective
- Cultural Competency in Allied Health
- Accessibility, Quality and Efficiency of the Health Care System
- Human Capital in Health Care
- Workforce Investment Boards
- The Role of Health Workforce in Hurricane Katrina

The individuals in attendance represented a wide range of organizations, including the American Medical Association, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, Association of Academic Health Centers, American Hospital Association, American Medical Technologists, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, American Association of Community Colleges, American Association for Respiratory Care, National

Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, and Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

The meeting included workgroup sessions and discussions concerning the evolution of HPN structure. As HPN celebrates ten years of association, it was decided to create a more formalized structure while maintaining the inclusive and collaborative foundation of the health professions organization. The formation of an incorporated entity will allow the organization to pursue public or private funding sources to enable the promotion of health professions to a national audience. The workgroup teams focus on consumer awareness, advocacy, membership, program, and coordination of the network. A special committee was formed to assist with the development of organizational bylaws. These changes will enable HPN to meet ongoing and new issues related to health professions.

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

CAAHEP is in the process of revising several items that are long-standing, deeply entrenched CAAHEP documents.

First, the CAAHEP Application for Accreditation Services has been revised and freshly uploaded to the CAAHEP website.

The changes include:

- Revised narrative at the top of the application
- One application for all Committees on Accreditation and all statuses of accreditation. The institution will “check off” the type of accreditation it is seeking as well as the type of program for which accreditation is sought
- An area to identify whether or not the program has any distance education components

The Dean and Program Director information will now be captured via the recommendation database, and the President information will be updated there as well.

An Accreditation Services Hub

Effective for the September 2006 CAAHEP Board of Directors (BoD) Conference Call, Committees on Accreditation (CoAs) will be submitting their recommendations for accreditation via the CAAHEP website.

An accreditation hub on the CAAHEP website will further streamline communications along the accreditation process.

- CoAs will receive e-mail notification of the availability of new issues of the CoA Notes, Communique and Meeting Highlights. All of these items will then be available for download from the hub and past issues will be archived and available as well.

The Accreditation Services Hub will be “live” for the CAAHEP July Summer Workshop. In the meantime if you have any questions or comments, contact Lori Schroeder at Schroeder@caahep.org or (301) 260-0269.

Other News

A call went out in April asking for help in identifying those programs that were adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina. CAAHEP asked for information detailing their current circumstances and what (if any) policies the Committee(s) on Accreditation had instituted to assist programs in the devastated region.

Together the CoAs identified 13 programs affected by Hurricane Katrina, and all but one of those programs is currently up and running. Some of the programs have temporarily relocated, or are running in less than perfect situations, but they are open and educating health sciences students.

As a reminder, the CAAHEP Board of Directors voted to waive the institution fees for the coming fiscal year for the institutions in this region.

Speaking of Hurricane Katrina

One CoA asked about programs that had been affected by acts of nature other than Hurricane Katrina, but equally devastating on a smaller scale.

The CoA always reserves the right to waive fees and adjust due dates of required reports or site visits. If there is a program in an initial status that needs an “extension” due to extraordinary circumstances, please contact Kathy Megivern, Executive Director, CAAHEP (megivern@caahep.org or 727-210-2350) to discuss the particulars of these situations, as they will be handled on a case by case basis.

Thanks to Lori Schroeder for preparing these highlights. Continued updates on the activities of CAAHEP can be found on its website: www.caahep.org.

The Executive Board unanimously agreed that it was critical to students, employers and consumers of health care that NN2 add its signature to the following letter, urging the United State Senate to restore funding levels for health professions education programs by providing monies for Title VII allied health programs and for Title VIII nursing programs in the FY 2007 budget.



July 10, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to fund fully the health professions education programs by providing at least \$300 million for Title VII health professions programs and \$175 million for Title VIII nursing programs in the FY 2007 budget. These appropriations levels restore funding lost as a result of the devastating 51.5 percent cut (\$154.4 million) to Title VII in FY 2006, and provide vital support for the programs to fulfill their shared mission of improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of health professionals nationwide.

The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 5647) passed by the House Appropriations Committee does not restore cuts enacted in FY 2006. While it reinstates funding to the geriatrics training programs, the bill maintains the substantial cuts to primary care and diversity programs, and the elimination of the rural training and workforce information and analysis programs. Further, the bill eliminates public health, preventive medicine, and dental public health programs, as well as the Health Careers Opportunity Program, a pipeline program that recruits minority and disadvantaged students into the health professions.

Title VII and VIII programs train providers with the skills to care for special needs populations and are the only federal programs designed to increase minority representation in the health care workforce. At a time when researchers predict imminent shortages across health professions disciplines, these programs are essential as they help increase the supply and distribution of primary care and other providers. As community health centers report significant provider recruitment difficulties, Title VII and VIII programs are needed to train health professionals who are more likely to serve in underserved communities and settings.

While we understand there are many competing priorities in the fiscal year 2007 bill, we fear that the enacted and proposed cuts to the health professions programs will exacerbate current and future health care challenges and will impact our nation's most vulnerable communities. We urge you to restore the devastating cuts from FY 2006, by fully funding the Title VII and VIII programs in the FY 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs.

Sincerely,

Advocate Health Care

Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American Dental Education Association
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Chiropractic Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of University Programs in Health Administration
HIV Medicine Association
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association for Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatrics Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

19th Annual NN2 Conference

Charleston • October 22 – 25, 2006

Charleston, originally named Charles Town after King Charles II of England, was the first colony settled in 1670. Since then the town has grown into a magnificent city that blends the old charm of its past with the modern pace of today. History is interwoven into every fabric of daily life in Charleston. A stroll through the streets of Charleston brings one face to face with the legacy of the culture of the Low country of South Carolina along with the influence of the British occupation and the “unpleasantness” of the War Between the States. From this history has evolved a city like no other in North America.

The Conference’s host, Trident Technical College, welcomes the membership of NN2 to Charleston for the 2006 annual conference. The theme, “Where History and Health Care Meet,” reflects the historical significance of the city of Charleston, as well as its reputation as a healthcare leader in the Southeast. The focus of the conference will be on our most recent history and the challenges that we meet preparing for and responding to emerging infectious diseases, as well as other natural and man-made disasters.

The major theme of the program is preparing allied health educators for the impact of disaster on allied health education, allied health manpower, and the health care delivery system.

The Conference’s keynote speaker is Dr. M. Younis, School of Public Health, Jackson State University. He possesses both the academic background and personal experience to address the immediacy of the importance for allied health educators to understand how disaster can disrupt the educational process and ultimately the delivery of health care services. He has an international reputation as a speaker dealing primarily with health economics and policy. He, too, also lost his home in Hurricane Katrina and knows first hand the personal and professional implications of disaster.

Additionally, a panel of experts on avian and pandemic influenza preparedness from the Medical University of South Carolina will educate attendees on the potential impact of a pandemic. This will be followed by a forum dealing with pandemic influenza planning for community colleges.

One of the hallmarks of any NN2 conference are the social activities, and this year’s conference will try to live up to expectations. The conference setting will be the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina with emphasis on “**Resort.**”



Please go to <http://nn2charleston2006.org> to view:

- registration information
- hotel reservations
- preliminary program
- vendor prospects
- sponsors
- host institution

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back row, left to right:

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Anne Loochtan, Elgene Doinidis, Janell Lang, Gretchen Riehl



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Membership Application

Name: _____

Title: _____

College / Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Type of Membership: (Check one)

- Individual: \$50 Professional Organization/Agency: \$500
 Institutional: \$200 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
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