



A MESSAGE *from the President*



Janell Lang
 NN2 President

When I was a small child, I would invariably complain to my mother each summer that the season passed by so quickly, while the winter (and the school year) lasted so long. In her wisdom, she replied that a day would come when the winters would be as short as the summers. Well, that time has arrived. Anyone of my generation knows that the years pass by more quickly than we ever could have imagined.

I remember the trepidation I felt when I assumed the Presidency of the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges in October, 2006, and now I realize that my tenure is about to end. Where did those two years go? And what did I do to further the goals and objectives of this organization?

Well, I'm not quite sure what I did achieve except perhaps to advance the goals of my predecessors. LaCheeta McPherson, NN2 President, 2002-2004, set the wheels in motion to make NN2 a Council Affiliate member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), no small feat, but she managed to do it. Barbara Jones, NN2 President, 2004-2006, brought this dream to fruition, and during my tenure, NN2 was able to nominate Barbara to the AACC Board of Directors, to which she was elected. This one accomplishment, I believe, will help to make the voice for health care education in two-year colleges heard loudly and clearly across the nation.

Council Affiliate status with AACC has opened many avenues of advocacy for NN2. Board members are serving on the Commission of Economic and Workforce Development and the Licensure Committee. Also, it has provided opportunities for members to present at the past four AACC Annual Conventions and at two recent Workforce Development Institute Conferences.

NN2 has maintained and strengthened its relationships with a variety of health agencies. These include the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC). Lois Simmons has represented our organization for the past three years, participating in conference calls and attending meetings in Washington, DC. Five NN2 members serve as either commissioners or board members of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), namely, LaCheeta McPherson, Dan Points, Anne Loochtan, Cynthia Butters and Carolyn O'Daniel. National Network members have been invited to participate in the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) meetings, and NN2 is now well known by that entity as the collective voice for allied health in two-year colleges. In addition, NN2 has a voice in the initiatives of the Health Professions Network (HPN), both as an institutional member and by the election of its current President to the HPN Board of Directors.

Furthermore, NN2 has formed a collaborative relationship with its four-year counterpart, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) on issues such as access, advocacy, accreditation, faculty recruitment and retention, clinical issues and leadership development. While NN2 will not be holding a joint session with ASAHP this year due to ASAHP's change of conference dates, the two organizations continue to work together on issues being examined by the American Association of Respiratory Care and ASPA.

Another wonderful change that has occurred is the reconstruction of the NN2 Website. This is due to the efforts and expertise of Anne Loochtan, President-Elect. A variety of news articles, communiqués and resources are available at the click of a mouse, and certainly, the list serve remains a tremendous resource for our members. Of course, the annual conference of the National Network has continued to grow and flourish with outstanding presentations, round tables, and networking capabilities. The 21st Annual Conference, "Access, Advocacy and Accountability," which will be held October 8-11,

2008 in Baltimore, MD, will address many of the issues we are all facing in health care education and practice. Please plan to join us there.

When I recall the mission statement of NN2, *We believe in promoting and encouraging innovation, collaboration and communication among two-year colleges sponsoring health career programs*, I know why I am a member. During my 22 year tenure as Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Owens Community College (OH), I was a member of many professional societies and organizations, but the one that helped me most was NN2 ~ because its members espoused that mission. They were willing to share ideas, information, strategies and vision. I will continue to advocate for NN2, for I believe in and am committed to its mission. Thank you for allowing me to serve as President for the past two years. It has been both a rewarding and humbling experience.

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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 Barbara Jones, NN2 Connections Editor, by email: bjones@ladelta.cc.la.us.



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NATIONAL NETWORK'S 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

in Baltimore

Are you an American history fan? Do you like to shop? Do you enjoy unique, regional cuisine and dining? Are you interested in attending the 21st Annual NN2 Conference? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please join the faculty of Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Essex and members of NN2 in Charm City-Baltimore, Maryland on October 8th - 11th, 2008.

The NN2 Conference will be held at the beautiful Tremont Plaza Hotel where you can experience lectures and participate in discussions on the topics of Access, Advocacy, and Accountability. The meeting will begin with a keynote address from Dr. George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

The members of NN2 have defined each of the topics: Access -Examples of how 2 year colleges are trying to be innovative in expanding enrollments to serve more students with shared programs, consortia, partnerships with higher education institutions, and partnerships with the health care industry. Dr. Marcie Weinstein and Linda Caplis, professors at Towson University, will present "Innovative Collaborative Programs" which highlights building and developing partnerships in sequential and dual enrollment between Towson University and CCBC.

Advocacy is defined as advocating or providing support for an idea, person, or cause. Dr. Patricia Hall will present "Mind Mapping... But I Can't Draw" which explores a method of note-taking that will allow you to assist your students to tap into their visual learning talents and at the same time, master content material.

Accountability is defined as assessing and improving student learning; providing public evidence of programmatic and institutional performance; balancing mission, vision and core values with national priorities; and the role of accreditation in finding common ground. Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, CCBC president and leader of the largest provider of higher education in the Baltimore Area, will share her insights regarding the roles and responsibilities of 2-year institutions to provide accredited allied health care programs to the surrounding community. She will also share her experiences with the partnerships developed with the area hospitals to meet the needs created by the shortage of qualified health care providers.

The Tremont Plaza Hotel is located only blocks from Baltimore's historical Inner Harbor. The Harbor is the home of Fort McHenry which was Baltimore's major defense against invaders. During the War of 1812, British ships anchored in the harbor began to bomb the fort in the early morning of September 13, 1814. This battle, known as the Battle of

Baltimore, lasted 25 hours and ended with the defeat and retreat of the British. A witness to "the bombs bursting in air" was Francis Scott Key whose words are well known and sung by all Americans, our National Anthem. History buffs, please take this opportunity to visit this remnant of American history.

The modern day Inner Harbor is the hub of the city. It offers residents and visitors an opportunity for entertainment, shopping, and dining. The Gallery at Harbor Place is home to a wide variety of unique specialty shops. For entertainment, the Harbor area offers many attractions including the Maryland Science Center and the National Aquarium at Baltimore.

As you leave the harbor by boat, you will navigate the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean. Both of these bodies of water are home to the Blue Crab, a unique, regional specialty. Summertime in the Baltimore area consists of meals of steamed crabs with Old Bay seasoning and corn on the cob. On Thursday evening, you will dine at Phillips Seafood Restaurant at the Inner Harbor where you will have the opportunity to taste this special delicacy of Baltimore.

As you can see, we have an interesting and exciting conference planned for you. Hope to see you in Baltimore!

NN2 2008 Annual Meeting
Planning Committee
www.baltimore.org
www.tremontsuitehotels.com

Register Now!

October 8 - 11, 2008
Tremont Plaza
Baltimore, MD

for more information, visit
www.NN2.org



21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 8-11, 2008
REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Information

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

Please check ALL that apply: Board Member Member Non-member Speaker Vendor Presenter

OFFICE USE ONLY:
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Zip: _____

Position Title _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Country _____

City/State of your institution (if different from mailing address above): City _____ State _____ Zip/Country _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Committee meeting you will attend: Emerging Issues/Outreach Membership/Marketing Advocacy
 Accreditation Leadership

Special Needs

I will need special assistance on-site. Please contact me: _____

I have special dietary needs (see below) _____

Other: _____

Registration/Position

Full Meeting (October 8-11, Wednesday-Saturday)

NUMBER	FRONTSEAT	REARSEAT
Member Registration Fee:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$475	<input type="checkbox"/> \$495
Non-member Registration Fee:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$495	<input type="checkbox"/> \$525
14 by only (paper):	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275	<input type="checkbox"/> \$375
Additional Registrants:		
Additional Guest Lunch Day 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	
Additional Guest Lunch Day 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	
Additional Guest Event Dinner:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	
Total Registration Fee:	\$ _____	

No plans will be processed after September 2, 2008. A \$100 processing fee will be charged on all refunds.
Must be submitted before September 2, 2008.

*For multiple registrations for multiple institutions, please include separate sheet with a list of each individual's institution.

Make checks payable to NN2

Mail check and registration form to:
 Ennon Schank
 The Community College of Baltimore County
 Building 1, Room 325
 7201 Rossville Blvd
 Baltimore, MD 21287
 Contact: 410-780-6763 or bschank@ccbc.edu
 Please do not include money for registration at this time.

How did you hear about this meeting?
 Direct Mail Newsletter Friend
 Other

Please list any topics or emerging issues you would like placed on the agenda for the meeting:

For more information, visit
www.NN2.org

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DISTANCE LEARNING AND HEALTH CARE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: PART 2

What are some programs doing? Anne Loochtan, PhD

In my last article, I discussed the history of distance learning (DL) and suggested that health care programs have been slower to adopt DL than other disciplines. In general, this is correct, but I acknowledge that there were some 'early adopters'. While Internet-based distance learning has only been around for a short time, its impact has already been tremendous in both traditional and non-traditional education. In fact, many new institutions of higher learning have emerged with distance learning as the primary mode of education (University of Phoenix, Capella University, Walden University, the Union Institute, Jones International University, etc.) I cannot recall any other type of institution arising out of the appearance of a single instructional technology; certainly no 'Chalkboard U' or 'Overhead U'. So what is it about this concept of distance learning that is so compelling, and how do healthcare programs fit in?

Students usually cite convenience and flexibility as key factors for adopting distance learning. Especially in two-year colleges, students are stressed like never before, with families, jobs, and school all competing for limited time. It's no wonder that students are taking distance learning courses in record numbers. Unfortunately, DL student attrition is also often higher than on-campus offerings of the same courses.

Just ten years ago, in 1998, Passmore and Bebko predicted that "Distance learning is one entity that will help provide what the consumer demands, an entity that will help shift the higher education paradigm from faculty-centered institutions to learner-centered institutions" (Passmore, 2000, p. 7, Bebko, 1998 p. 10). Today, we see just how true that is; the students are voting with their feet and gas prices have shifted the balance. Health care programs that provide distance learning help satisfy that consumer demand. With the current healthcare workforce shortage, anything that can help increase the number of qualified graduates should be strongly considered.

In our division, we have several core health care courses and biological science courses available as distance offerings, and they fill rapidly. Core courses offered include: Health and Wellness; Law and Ethics in Healthcare; Medical Terminology; Health Care Informatics; Health Information Management courses; Biology 1, 2 and 3; Anatomy and Physiology 1, 2 and 3; and

Microbiology. The biology courses are hybrid courses, with limited labs on campus. The other courses are entirely online. Some colleges have similar offerings, but other colleges have few or no distance learning courses in health and biological sciences.

In the U.S., many, if not most DL programs in health care are degree-completion programs, usually offered to two-year graduates moving to complementary four-year degrees. This is a typical pathway for distance-based BSN programs. Other health care fields, Respiratory Care and Radiography, for example, do not have a career and degree ladder similar to the nursing field, therefore the bachelor's and master's distance degree completion programs are more likely to be in health care management, supervision, or education than in the discipline itself.

Ohio has two distance nursing programs (Owens Community College and Columbus State Community College) where didactic courses are offered online, and labs and clinics are delivered in a hybrid fashion. The field of Health Information Management is very compatible with computer-based instructional technology and is often offered as an online-based distance learning program. Examples include the medical coding certificate at Columbus State in Columbus, Ohio; the new Cancer Information Management degree and certificate at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio; and the Health Information Management Associate Degree program at Sinclair Community College, in Dayton, Ohio. The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) lists 23 distance learning associate-degree HIT programs on their website and more bachelor's and master's degree programs.

Many healthcare educators argue that health courses cannot be successfully taught via distance, as they feel that students cannot learn physical skills or practice in this environment. In some respects, this is true. However, a distance learning program is usually defined as one that occurs with a geographical separation of the student and the faculty member. A program can be located in one city, while the students live many miles away. The student can still learn physical skills at a distance through a cooperating agency or hospital.

There are three common models of distance learning in health-related programs, and of course, much depends on what skills are required. If the necessary skills are at the keyboard, distance learning is an obvious choice. However, if the skill requires phlebotomy, proper IV insertion, or working in a surgical suite, the physical skills cannot be obtained at a distance, although the program can still be at a distance and lab/clinical prep may occur online or using other distance media. The key is to develop a means for the student to obtain those skills without requiring them to travel any more than necessary.

I will discuss the three major distance learning models in the fall newsletter, with more examples of programs using each model. If you have a distance learning health care course or program, send me an email and I'll try to integrate your program into the examples in the last article. (anne.loochtan@cincinnatiastate.edu)



References:

Bebko, P. R. (1998). Influences upon higher education faculty use of distance education technology. (Doctoral dissertation, Florida Atlantic University). (UMI No. 9823277)

Loochtan, A., 2006, Unpublished Dissertation, Capella University. An examination of an allied health distance learning program in radiography.

Passmore, D. L. (2000, December). Impediments to adoption of web-based course delivery among university faculty. Retrieved April 24, 2001, from ALN Magazine http://www.aln.org/alnweb/magazine/Vol4_issue2/passmore.htm

No author. CAHIIM website, retrieved June 2, 2008. <http://www.cahiim.org/directory/Index.asp>

21st Annual Conference : OCTOBER 8-11, 2008

Preliminary Agenda

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:00 a.m. Golf opportunity at Diamond Ridge Golf Course
1:00 – 5:00 Pre-Conference Board Meeting at Tremont
2:00 – 8:00 Registration at Tremont
6:00 p.m. Reception at Tremont

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
7:30 – 8:30 New Member's Breakfast with NN2 President and Board Members
7:30 – 12 noon Registration and Visit Vendor tables
8:30 – 8:45 Welcome to Baltimore and Announcements
8:45 – 9:00 Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, President CCBC, Introduction of Speaker
9:00 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker, Dr. George Boggs, President AACCC
10:00 – 10:30 Question and Answer Session with Dr. Boggs
10:30 – 11:00 Break – Refreshments and Visit Vendor Tables
11:00 – 12:00 Dr. Kurtinitis, Topic: See Registration Packet
12:00 – 1:30 Lunch at Tremont
1:40 – 2:30 Track 1: Dr. Mark McCulloch: Gateway Project, Preparing Middle School Students for College
Track 2: Donna Sewell: Degree Collaborations with a Four Year Institution: What's in it for the Student?
2:40 – 3:30 Track 1: Patricia Hall: Mind Mapping ... But I Can't Draw
Track 2: Stephanie McKennie and Karen Chamberlain: Lifecycle for Integrating Multiple Technologies into a Nursing Program
3:30 – 5:00 Explore the Baltimore Inner Harbor area
5:00 Dinner at Phillips Seafood Restaurant, Baltimore Inner Harbor, Light Street Pavilion

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Visit Vendor Tables
7:00 – 12 noon Registration
8:00 – 8:15 Welcome and Announcements
8:15 – 9:30 Featured Speaker: Former MD State Senator and Current Associate Director, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Paula Hollinger
9:30 – 10:30 Committee Meetings
10:30 – 11:00 Break – Refreshments and Visit Vendors
11:10 – 12:30 Panel Discussion – Degree Expansion: What is the Impact?
12:30 – 2:00 Lunch at Tremont and Annual Business Meeting
2:00 – 2:50 Track 1: Dr. Marcie Weinstein and Linda Caplis: Innovative Collaborative Programs
Track 2: Barbara Hill and Elizabeth Jesada: Thinking Gymnastics & Discovery Learning Games for Use in the Clinical Area
2:50 – 3:10 Refreshments and Final Opportunity to Visit Vendor Tables
3:10 – 4:00 Track 1: Beth Hunsinger: Accommodations in the Classroom and Clinical Situations
Track 2: Melanie Gray and Stephanie McKennie: Using Innovation and Technology to Enhance Educational Collaboration and Student Achievement
4:00 Adjourn for afternoon and evening activities

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Post-Conference Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 Welcome and Announcements
8:15 – 9:15 Hot Topics I – See Registration packet
9:15 – 10:15 Hot Topics II – See Registration packet
10:15 – 10:45 Break – Refreshments
10:45 – 11:30 Hot Topics Reports, Meeting Summary, Dismissal

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

2008 Annual Convention *Cullen Johnson and Anne Loochtan*

Six members of the National Network (NN2) attended the 88th Annual Convention of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) April 5-8, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA. NN2 members, Dr. Barbara Jones, Louisiana Delta Community College, Monroe, LA, Janell Lang, Owens Community College, Toledo, OH, Dr. Anne Loochtan, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Cincinnati, OH, Julia Peacock, Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY, Angela Pickwick, Montgomery Community College, Silver Spring, MD, and Cullen Johnson, Executive Director, NN2, shared hosting duties at the organization's booth on Council Row at the AACC Academic Marketplace. NN2 shared space with the National Organization of Associate Degree Nursing (N-OADN), another Council Affiliate member.

Newsletters, brochures, post-it notes and flyers, announcing the 21st NN2 Annual Conference in Baltimore, were distributed to those who visited the booth. Poster boards featuring sponsor and member institutions were displayed as well.

Community college presidents from across the United States stopped to look for a listing of their respective colleges. If the institution's name was not registered, they were encouraged to take a membership brochure for their Deans/Directors.

Also, Janell Lang and Anne Loochtan presented a forum, "The Wild Frontier of Distance Learning in Health and Biological Sciences," at the convention. The session highlighted three successful models, identified challenges and solutions related to this delivery format and discussed the myths/realities of specialized health accreditation, especially as it pertains to distance learning. The forum was well received with a "full house" of presidents in attendance.

Additionally, the AACC Commission on Economic and Workforce Development Commission convened a pre-conference meeting on Friday, April 4, which Anne Loochtan attended. Dr. Shirley Pippins, Suffolk County Community College, Long Island, NY, reported on a conference call held by the

Licensure Committee in March. Participants in the call were Janell Lang, Anne Loochtan, Donita Qualey, President, N-OADN, and Jim McKenney and Roxanne Fulcher of AACC. The issues raised during the conference call occupied a significant portion of the commission meeting.

The predominant topic was degree creep in health professions, particularly in nursing, respiratory care and the imaging sciences. During the commission meeting, many opinions were expressed, but overwhelmingly the attendees were concerned about the impact of degree expansion on the workforce and community colleges, and the potential expense and effect on the health care system. Questions were posed that even if the entry level degree was raised would hospitals and other health care agencies be able to respond with an increase in pay. With the acute shortage of health care professionals today, how long could the system withstand an increase to baccalaureate practitioners? The meeting adjourned with an affirmation that AACC keep a close watch on the progress of such initiatives.



Cullen Johnson & Anne Loochtan



Janell Lang & Barbara Jones

BARBARA JONES ELECTED TO AACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Barbara Jones, Louisiana Delta Community College Dean of Instruction and 2004-2006 National Network President, was elected to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors as a Council Representative of the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges (NN2), at the recent AACC Annual Conference held in Philadelphia, PA. The AACC has been the voice of the nation's community colleges for more than 80 years. Today the association represents almost 1,200 associate degree-granting institutions and more than 11 million students, as well as

a growing number of international members. The AACC is an advocacy organization for community colleges at the national and state level, supporting and promoting member colleges through policy initiatives, programs, services, leadership development, research, information, and collaborations with business and industry.

Dr. Jones will serve a three-year term on the AACC Board of Directors beginning in July, 2008. In addition to serving on the AACC Board, Dr. Jones has been asked to serve as the AACC Board Council Contact to the NN2 Council,

Co-Chair of the Commission on Research, Technology, and Emerging Trends, and member of the AACC Board Committee on Program Initiatives. Dr. Jones stated, "I am honored to be elected to the AACC Board of Directors and embrace the opportunity to serve on the Board to help advance and advocate the role, scope, and mission of community colleges and health career programs." NN2 members are encouraged to send any health career educator or program issues or concerns for AACC to Dr. Jones at bjones@ladelta.cc.la.us.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS NETWORK SPRING MEETING *Janell Lang*

Cullen Johnson, Anne Loochtan and Janell Lang attended the Health Professions Network (HPN) Spring Conference, "The Changing Face of Healthcare," held April 2-5 in Baltimore, MD. The keynote presentation, "Achieving Cultural Competency," given by Donna Skurzak of the Cleveland Clinic, provided an interactive discussion on cultural competence when treating patients from African-American, Hispanic and Amish communities.

Cecilia DeLoach of Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) described the environmental

threats posed by health care agencies and potential toxic effects both on patient outcomes and employee recruitment and retention. Tannaz Rasouli, Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), presented challenges for Title VII funding of health professions education and training, with the current proposed federal budget eliminating allied health funding. Dr. Paul Gaston, Kent State University, provided observations on the recent history of federal involvement in higher education accreditation through the Spellings Commission report and other initiatives. Finally, Christine Goeschel of Johns Hopkins University

described her role in a nationally acclaimed project undertaken in Michigan to reduce central line catheter infections among hospitalized patients.

The conference was hosted by the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association, which warmly welcomed attendees and provided a panoramic view of the city and its attractions, including lunch at the Grand Marble Room in the historical Tremont Plaza Hotel, convention site of the 21st Annual National Network Conference in October.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND NURSE EDUCATORS COALITION (HPNEC) *Lois Simmons*

NN2 Board member, Lois Simmons, attended a HPNEC meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 13. NN2 is the only two-year college organization that participates in HPNEC. The meeting was devoted primarily to the FY 09 budget resolution, which will affect the funding for Title VII and VIII.

Members of HPNEC met with staff of Rep. David Obey, chair of the House Appropriations Committee. They stated that restoration of full funding to Title VII and VIII would be very expensive and expect that, similar to last year, about \$10 million over the president's budget would be recommended. Rep. Obey's staff asked for data concerning the proportion of health programs that benefit from Title VII and VIII money. HPNEC will attempt to collect this data and respond. The most recent HPNEC sign-on letter, asking for restoration of full funding for Title VII and VIII, has been signed by a number of associations, including NN2.

A flyer posted to the HPNEC web site reports that the few programs that are receiving Title VII and VIII funds are using the funds in ways that exceed HRSA's expectations in: 1) % of graduates from minority or disadvantaged populations; 2) % of participants training in medically underserved communities; and 3) % of health professionals

entering practice in underserved areas.

Also, it was noted that the Senate Special Committee on Aging (Martha Stewart testified) which recommended increased support for Title VII and the Alliance for Health Reform, concerned with social and ethnic disparities in healthcare, also encouraged increased support for Title VII.

HPNEC Update from June 27th - Funding levels for Titles VII and VIII that reportedly are included in the Senate Committee mark to be filed: \$195.537 million for Title VII, a \$1.58 million (0.8%) increase over FY 2008, including a slight increase for the Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry, Public Health, Preventive Medicine, and Dental Public Health programs. All other programs receive funding at FY 2008 levels. Like the House, the Senate committee restores funding for most Title VIII nursing programs to FY 2007 funding levels. Unlike the House, the Senate committee also increases funding for Advanced Education Nursing Programs, and provides smaller increases than the House for the Nursing Faculty Loan Program and the Loan Repayment and Scholarship program. Overall, the Senate mark provides \$167.7 million for Title VIII, an \$11.6 million (7.4 percent) increase.

Article Explores Changing Definition of "Allied Health" *Fred Donini-Lenhoff*

The spring 2008 issue of the Journal of Allied Health includes a history of allied health education, accreditation, and practice. The article chronicles the development of the concept of allied health and considers whether the term is still relevant today. It also details the development of the AMA's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA), which until the formation of ACOTE in 1994 was the accrediting agency for occupational therapy educational programs.

The article concludes that "the history of allied health mirrors the history of medicine, with its

marked trend towards increased specialization and sub-specialization, in response to advances in medicine and medical technology. As the allied health professions continue to grow and develop separate identities and greater public awareness, the challenge will be to maintain cohesion and collaboration among the professions. Without a strong, unified voice in the policy arena, all allied health professions—particularly smaller professions with less visibility and lower educational requirements—are at risk of reduced federal/state funding for health care workforce development and education."

Today, such organizations as the Health Professions Network (HPN), Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP), and National Network for Health-Career Programs in Two Year Colleges (NN2) help ensure continued collaboration among the allied health professions.

Contact Fred Donini-Lenhoff, American Medical Association (fred.lenhoff@ama-assn.org) for article reprints.

Report on 2008 CAAHEP Annual Meeting

Carolyn O'Daniels

NN2 Commissioners: The 14th Annual CAAHEP Meeting held in Las Vegas April 27-28 was attended by NN2 commissioners Cynthia Butters, Ann Loochtan, Lacheeta McPherson, Carolyn O'Daniel, and Dan Points.

Elections: Kerry Weinberg, representing the Joint Review Committee for Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Gregory Frazier, representing the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, and Nancy Smith, representing the American Society of Cytopathology were elected to the Board of Directors. Two incumbent members were elected for the Nominating and Elections Committee: NN2 Commissioner Anne Loochtan, and Linda Van Scoder, the AACC Commissioner. Dr. Fumisuke has filled the Board vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Lawrence Kim.

Bylaws Revision: A Bylaws revision was approved in Article V – Membership to change the definition of associate member. The newly approved definition is "National organization or agency that has requested of the Commission the addition of a health science discipline to the CAAHEP system and is working toward formation of a new Committee on Accreditation for that discipline."