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NLN Foundation Focus

Coming Up from the NLN

Summit 2009 Philadelphia
Dear Colleague Members,

I am pleased to present the 2008-2009 Executive Report. Originally presented at the annual NLN Business Meeting at the Education Summit, I mentioned then that it is full of wonderful news. In fact, the news is quite amazing during a year when we saw the downturn of the economy, the threat of financial instability to our schools, and the challenges to change our American way of life to become more thoughtful, accountable, and fiscally responsible. Only due to the support of our members and the fantastic work of our staff could I present such an outstanding report. It is a privilege and an honor to work with, for, and on behalf of our beloved National League for Nursing.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer

The Voice for Nursing Education

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NLN Executive Report
September 2008 through August 2009

This annual report serves as a guide to the National League for Nursing’s accomplishments of the last year. The activities described exhibit the NLN’s identity as the voice for nursing education and its mission to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce. Within the parameters of our core values – caring, integrity, diversity, excellence – the NLN offers faculty development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to you, its members, who represent all types of nursing education programs, from doctoral to licensed practical nursing.

Professional Growth and Lifelong Learning

The Research and Professional Development Business Unit continues to produce a comprehensive array of faculty development activities that offers nurse educators a choice of content, location, and format to meet the needs and budgets of our members.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

NLN 2008 Education Summit, Faculty Leadership/Research Conference, Technology Conference, Immersion in Evidenced-Based Nursing Education, Scholarly Writing Retreat (funded by the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education), 18 workshops, and 12 webinars.

SPEAKERS AND CONSULTANTS

The NLN Speaker/Consultant Bureau continued to match the needs of schools of nursing and affiliated constituent leagues across the country, providing access to consultants who are qualified to assist with a variety of nursing education challenges.

Courses

Two new courses were added to the Simulation Innovation Resource Center’s website: Maximizing Realism and Developing Faculty. There are now 11 online courses and a variety of other resources to assist faculty with designing and developing simulations and integrating them into the curriculum. SIRC remains the most innovative website related to simulations in nursing education.

NLN GRANTS

In April, the NLN and Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) received a three-year grant – ACES (Advancing Care Excellence for Seniors) – from the John A. Hartford Foundation to foster geriatric nursing education for prelicensure nursing programs: associate, baccalaureate, and diploma. ACES pages on the NLN website include gerontological resources for faculty and students such as classroom-ready teaching tools and strategies, curriculum guidelines and examples, and information about upcoming faculty development events. In addition, Laerdal Medical Corporation is providing support for an NLN initiative for the development of simulation and case studies on older adults. This collaborative effort also received funding from the Independence Foundation, CCP’s local funding partner.

Now in the third successful year of a five-year initiative funded by the Division of Nursing at HRSA, the HITS (Health Information Technology Scholars) Collaborative continued with the University of Kansas, the University of Colorado at Denver, Indiana University in Indianapolis, and Johns Hopkins University.

The NLN is in the final phases of data collection of the quasi-experimental, longitudinal study research project (DOSES) with Laerdal and the American Heart Association to determine the retention of knowledge and skill performance related to Basic Life Support (BSL) when different approaches to learning are used. Dr. Marilyn Oermann directs this project.

The NLN Faculty Leadership Mentoring Project received its third year of funding from Johnson & Johnson. Each year, through a highly selective national application process, five early to mid-career nurse educators are chosen as protégés and matched, according to their interests and experience, with a mentor selected from fellows — recognized leaders in nursing education — in the NLN’s prestigious Academy of Nursing Education.
MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to grow; the NLN now proudly boasts more than 30,000 members, up from 18,000 just three years ago. Ninety-eight percent of education agencies (schools of nursing) renewed their membership for 2009. Since January 25 schools of nursing have joined representing all types of nursing programs: BSN and higher - 11, ADN - 12, PN - 1.

The new membership category, NLN Associates, continues to draw attention from many organizations, and we are continuing to upgrade the benefits to those special members.

The Online Membership System, launched this year, enables the NLN to provide faster service to you, our members. An NLN member decal was produced and distributed to all for display in cars and windows.

AFFILIATED CONSTITUENT LEAGUES

In June the NLN welcomed Maryland to the newly expanded and renamed District of Columbia/Maryland League for Nursing. With the recent addition of California and Louisiana, there are now 22 affiliated leagues representing 29 states.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

NLN Ambassadors continue to ensure that faculty in all schools of nursing have a voice about issues of concern to them and are kept informed about the NLN's programs, grant opportunities, and member involvement initiatives. There are currently 681 ambassadors, representing schools of nursing in every state and five countries. Seven percent of ambassadors are at non-NLN member schools; 228 ambassadors were appointed this past spring. With skill, speed, and wisdom ambassadors advocate for the NLN and provide ongoing essential information to their schools.

ACADEMY OF NURSING EDUCATION

Chosen for their sustained and significant contributions to the field of nursing education, 21 fellows, representing 20 schools of nursing throughout the United States, became the third class of fellows in the Academy of Nursing Education. They join the 65 fellows, who, since the academy’s establishment in 2007, have proudly claimed the credential ANEF.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Five schools of nursing were named Centers of Excellence for 2009-2012. UMPC Shadyside School of Nursing in Pennsylvania, Christ Hospital School of Nursing in New Jersey, and University of Oklahoma (continuing designee from 2006-09) were chosen for creating environments that promote student learning. Brookdale Community College in New Jersey and Indiana University School of Nursing (continuing designee from 2006-09) were chosen for creating environments that promote faculty expertise. Jeanne B. Jenkins, MBA, MSN, RN, a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was named winner of the 2009 Student Excellence Paper Competition for “A Letter to Sarah.”

PEDAGOGICAL RESEARCH

The 2009 NLN Survey on Clinical Education, representing all types of RN nursing programs in all 50 United States, points to barriers to effective clinical education in prelicensure nursing programs and the need for continued research. Lack of quality sites, lack of faculty qualified to teach on-site, and restrictions of the number of students or other limitations imposed by clinical agencies conspire to create barriers to effective clinical education in prelicensure nursing programs. Results reflect the views of many leading nurse educators, who contend that advancements in clinical education are essential to easing the nationwide nursing shortage. Dr. Pamela Ironside served as the survey’s lead investigator.

The invitational NLN Think Tank on Transforming Clinical Education report released in March calls for fundamental changes in how prelicensure nursing students are taught in a clinical setting. Among the areas participants identified for potential restructuring were relationships-centered and patient-centered care. In the ideal model, students would be taught to view the clinical setting from a systemic perspective and be encouraged to forge connections with patients, family members, and staff; and understand the nurse’s role in each relationship.

GLOBAL AND DIVERSITY

A new ICN Nursing Education Network has been established to promote excellence in nursing education. New realities of international migration, easier movement across and between countries, advanced communications technology, global health care, and a worldwide nursing shortage make the preparation of a 21st-century, diverse nursing workforce a critical priority. The new network provides a forum to address nursing educational issues worldwide. The network’s inaugural meeting was held at the 24th ICN Quadrennial Congress, June 27 - July 4, 2009, in Durban, South Africa. Among the primary items for exploration will be the international shortages of nurses and nurse faculty that exist in many countries. The steering committee is chaired by Dr. Virginia Adams, the NLN consultant on global and diversity issues.

In “A Commitment to Diversity in Nursing and Nursing Education,” the NLN’s Reflection & Dialogue series called on the nursing education community to establish a workforce of faculty, researchers, and scholars that illustrates a definition of diversity beyond mere tolerance of differences to one of celebration. The continuing series reflects the input of various NLN constituencies and offers an opportunity for discussion of important issues with the nursing education community.

connections and communications

The Communications Business Unit is continually working to increase the visibility of NLN programs and members, using various communications tools including public/media relations, government affairs and public policy research, marketing communications, publications such as the NLN journal, and the NLN website. Through the department’s output, the NLN’s public image is clarified and enhanced and the voice for nursing education is more frequently heard.

MARKETING, MEDIA RELATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AND THE WEB

A beautiful new general NLN brochure called the NLN Viewbook was produced this year. It serves as an introduction to all things NLN, presenting an overview
of the many programs, benefits, and services
the League offers.

Recent improvements to the NLN’s home page
reflect the balance of communication needs
with the website’s aesthetics, ease of navigation,
and breadth of information. There are now
direct, “one-click” links from the home page to
vital information and data about the health
care reform process, the nurse and nurse faculty
shortage, and grants and scholarships from
federal and private sources.

The NLN reaches millions of readers and view-
ers on an ongoing basis, reflecting the effect-
iveness of its press strategy. During a recent
four-month period, the NLN’s clipping service
reported an audience of nearly 61 million, the
result of comprehensive, proactive media rela-
tions such as press releases and letters to tar-
geted publications detailing NLN initiatives
and articulating the NLN’s stand on pertinent
issues.

The NLN journal continues to grow in stature.
This year, Nursing Education Perspectives was
officially and formally designated the
“Research Journal of the National League for
Nursing.” This change and others that reflect
the journal’s greater emphasis on nursing edu-
cation research have struck a chord with nurse
educators. The rate of submissions has tripled;
ad sales for the first four issues of 2009 are
ahead of sales for the same issues in 2008.

In the ongoing response to the importance of
recognition in the battle for market share,
branding activities continue apace for NLN
Testing Services. New and updated materials
with testing’s logo and colors unveiled just this
past year include: RN and PN brochures,
exhibit displays for sales team members, tech-
nical manual and exam covers, an ad library,
school of nursing case studies to illustrate the
value of our testing products, and the quarter-
ly Customers Update.

Public Policy Research and
Government Relations

Launched in March, NLN DataView™ has
proven to be very popular. These web
pages are a huge boon to efforts to dis-
seminate NLN data widely. Moreover, this is a
giant step forward toward our objective of
optimizing our use of our human resources by
leveraging technology to its utmost whenever
possible. With just a fraction of the staff of
comparable organizations, the NLN is fulfilling
our goal of providing timely, “spot-on” data to
the nursing and health care communities, to
policy makers, and to the broader public.
NLN-branded charts, graphs, and data tables,
in easily downloaded formats, allow self-service
access to NLN data resources. And according
to our web usage data, thousands of “hits”
have already been recorded.

Under the wings of the Public Policy
Committee, now concluding a second produc-
tive year, the 2009-2010 Public Policy Agenda
was written and approved by the Board of
Governors at its January 2009 meeting. The
biggest change is the addition of advocating for
quality health care for all as a major area for
the NLN’s public policy portfolio, joining eth-
nic/cultural/gender diversity, nurse workforce
development, and the nurse faculty shortage.
The agenda, created to be used throughout
2009 and 2010 to coincide with the federal
two-year congressional sessions, is prominently
posted on the NLN website and serves as an
NLN position statement on public policy.

The government affairs staff continues to
review and analyze, vis-à-vis the NLN’s posi-
tions, the health care reform bills making their
way through a difficult legislative process.
These analyses are posted on the NLN’s web-
te.

Testing Services

NLN tests remain the gold standard for
NCLEX® preparation and high retention rates
for nursing students, providing testing solu-
tions for both RN and PN programs.
Developed in accordance with the NLN’s long-
standing philosophy of consultation with nurse
educators and clinicians and reflective of the
educational needs of academia, NLN tests are
predictive and empirically based, meeting the
highest psychometric standards of excellence.
Ongoing validation and reliability studies
ensure the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness
for which NLN tests have long been known.
NLN Testing Services is the only one of its kind
where revenue goes back into providing quali-
ty faculty development services.

Certified Nurse Educators

Nurse educators continue to demonstrate
significant interest in the certified nurse
educator examination. As of June 30,
2009, more than 2,000 nurse educators have
taken the examination; there are 1,683 certified
nurse educators (CNEs) representing every
state. The cumulative pass rate for the
Academic Nurse Educator Certification
Program is 80.9 percent.

On April 27, 2009, the NLN’s Academic Nurse
Educator Certification Program was granted
accreditation by NCCA Commission for a peri-
od of five years through March 31, 2014. The
NLN Certification Commission serves as an
independent and autonomous body within the
NLN with respect to the development, evalua-
tion, supervision, and administration of all cer-
tification program policies, procedures, and
activities.

Integrated Testing Solutions

NLN Testing Services is having a good year—
with positive prospects for 2010 and beyond.
Sales increased over the first two quarters of
2009 by 10 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

In 2009, the NLN launched a new exam engine
that makes testing easier and more secure for
facilities and students. In addition, it supports
computer adaptive testing. A new set of servers
now makes the testing website run faster and
more efficiently.

The NLN is proud to have initiated the “first-
in-industry” computer adaptive test for the
prelicensure testing market. Through the
NLN’s affiliated constituent leagues, the pilot
was announced and schools were solicited for
participation. Twenty schools have participated
to date.

New research was conducted into score reports
and the need to convey “diagnostic” informa-
tion to students and “prescriptive” information
to faculty and administrators to support stu-
dent, course, and program outcomes linked to
accreditation standards. This research con-
tributes to the enhancement of both the nurs-
ing educator and psychometric communities.
Utilizing the expertise of CNEs to write items,
a seamless online Item Writing Platform was
implemented; all NLN testing tools can be
continually updated based on best clinical practice and current scope of practice for entering nurses.

Based on customer need, Testing Services worked with NLN Communications to create Customer Update, an electronic newsletter that is distributed to the more than 725 nursing organizations that utilize NLN test products. Recent editions have included upgrades in the testing administration processes, introduction of new testing products, and an “education corner” highlighting the latest in assessment and measurement theory.

The NLN sales team continues to work tirelessly to get the word out about NLN testing products, visiting with nursing schools, and demonstrating why the NLN is the gold standard in testing services.

Finance

The financial results of the National League for Nursing and Affiliates for the year 2008, delivered by NLN treasurer Dr. Joseph T. DeRanieri at the annual business meeting during the NLN Education Summit, describes another financially successful year and one of continued transition.

Though the report includes the results of the National League for Nursing, Inc., the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc., and the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education, Inc., there is a strong firewall between the NLN and NLNAC regarding the accrediting and financial decisions of the two corporations.

Due to the market downturn the NLN frozen pension plan suffered losses on its investments in the year 2008. New accounting regulations required the NLN to reflect these losses on the financial statements resulting in loss for 2008. However, the NLN and its affiliates continue to generate profits from their ongoing operations.

A review of expense trends (graph above) reveals that salaries and benefits increased in the year 2008. This increase was offset by a reduction in professional fees compared to 2006. The NLN brought certain services in house in 2007 and thereby reduced reliance on others. The full effect of this transition was realized in 2008. Additional increases in salary and benefits are due to the increase in health care costs. Other categories have remained relatively stable over the years with the exception of increased needs for meetings due to the growth of the Summit. The NLN Board of Governors and staff, NLNAC commissioners, and the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education Board of Trustees are mindful of all expenditures. We are among only a few organizations that can accomplish so much in collaboration with our volunteers.

The operating surplus was positive last year due to the investment the Board of Governors made in the year 2006 for testing and professional development services and the hiring of the CEO for the NLN and the executive director for NLNAC. Many positive services and changes were implemented. These investments will need to continue in future years.

The NLN generates income revenues from the products and services we deliver to our members and member organizations. Without this revenue, we have no resources from which to meet our mission. Our largest revenue sources for the NLN Consolidated Group are fees from Testing Services (NLN), accreditation and annual fees (NLNAC*), annual membership dues, revenues from meetings such as the Education Summit, and royalty income. As you can see from the chart in column 1, overall revenue continues to grow.

*Accreditation and annual fees collected in “fee for service” are collected solely by NLNAC.
Summit 2009

1. Local resident and national hero
   Benjamin Franklin welcomes attendees
   at the opening session.

2. Open Sesame: Doors open to 2009
   Summit exhibit.

3. Opening Session presenters (from left):
   MCs Drs. Beverly Malone and Elaine
   Tagliareni; recipient of the NLN
   President’s Award, HRSA director Dr.
   Mary Wakefield; incoming NLN presi-
   dent, Dr. Cathleen Shultz; and keynote
   speaker Roswyn Hakesley-Brown, CBE.

4. Networking at the special reception for
   Certified Nurse Educators

5. Perusing one of the 60 posters featured
   this year
6. Nursing students from Community College of Philadelphia and Thomas Jefferson University experience Summit learning opportunities firsthand.

7. Attendees gather in the exhibit hall, exploring the latest trends and technologies in nursing education.

8. Chatting before the start of a concurrent session.

9. Nurse scholars present findings from the NLN National Survey on Clinical Education in Nursing to a lively audience at the Plenary Session.
10. Dr. Malone delivers the 2009 CEO Summit Address.

11. Dialogue and discussion at the National Faculty Meeting

12-16. Five schools of nursing receive the prestigious Center of Excellence designation for 2009-2012. From left, Indiana University, UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, Christ Hospital School of Nursing, Brookdale Community College, University of Oklahoma.

17. Supporters of the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education dance the night away at the American Bandstand fundraiser.
18-20. We Accept: 2009 NLN Awardees Drs. Anne Belcher, Marilyn Oermann, and Pam Ironside.

21. Newly pinned NLN president Dr. Cathleen Shultz delivers her inaugural address.


23. The NLN 2009 class of 21 fellows of the Academy of Nursing Education.
**Introducing…**

**Newly Elected President-Elect and Governors Sworn in at Annual Business Meeting**

Cathleen Shultz took the podium on September 26 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, delivering an inaugural address that was warmly received by the sold-out crowd at the NLN’s 2009 Education Summit.

“I feel privileged by my selection to lead this organization, which, as the voice for nursing education, represents the hopes and dreams of so many nurse educators for the future of the nursing profession,” Dr. Shultz said afterwards. She added, “I am humbled by the dedication of my colleagues and by the NLN’s mission, which I pledge to advance; to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce.”

NLN CEO Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, expressed delight, saying, “I look forward to continuing to receive the wise counsel I have come to expect from Cathie during her years as president-elect.” And Dr. Shultz’s NLN presidency was given an enthusiastic endorsement by David Burks, president of Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, where since 1980, Dr. Shultz has been the first, and to date only, dean of the College of Nursing. (She began teaching at Harding in 1976.)

“We are certainly pleased Dr. Cathie Shultz has been selected by her peers to lead the National League for Nursing. Dean Shultz has been an integral part of Harding’s nursing program for more than three decades. Equally important, she has been a leader in nursing education in Arkansas and the nation during that same time span. I am confident she will continue to provide excellent leadership for the NLN during her tenure as president,” said Dr. Burks of the two-time recipient of Harding’s Distinguished Teacher Award.

With an expansive background in all areas of nursing education and special expertise in nurse educator development, the rebirth of the nurse educator as an advanced practice role, and the transformation of nursing education, Dr. Shultz has made her mark on both the state and national stages. She is the only nurse to have served as president of both the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and the Arkansas Nurses’ Association and was twice appointed to the state board, most recently to a four-year term by Gov. Mike Beebe. An earlier appointment, from 1989-92, was made by then-Gov. Bill Clinton. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and has been active in Sigma Theta Tau International since 1976, elected to the position of secretary in 1999.

Dr. Shultz earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing at the University of South Carolina in 1974. She later went on to receive master’s and doctoral degrees in nursing from Emory University and Vanderbilt University, respectively. A prolific writer, Dr. Shultz’s vitae lists numerous publications, including an article in a national nursing journal with a young Arkansas lawyer, Hillary Clinton.

An NLN member since 1976, in 2005, Dr. Shultz was elected to the League’s Board of Governors, serving as treasurer. Her service on National League for Nursing advisory councils has helped build the science of nursing education. She has worked on numerous NLN committees including the Task Group on Teaching-Learning Paradigms. Edited by Dr. Shultz, *Building a Science of Nursing Education: Foundation for Evidence-Based Teaching-Learning*, recently published by NLN Press, arose from the work of that committee.

**BOG Welcomes**

**Four New Faces**

“I extend my deepest congratulations to our newly elected officials and look forward to working together with them in the coming years,” said Dr. Malone, in announcing the results of the 2009 NLN elections. “Collectively, they represent well over 100 years of experience as clinicians, nurse educators, scholars, and thought leaders, with demonstrated high-level involvement in the NLN; state and regional NLN constituent leagues; and other leading organizations in nursing education and health care.”

Judith Halstead, executive associate dean for academic affairs and a professor in the School of Nursing at Indiana University in Indianapolis, will serve as president-elect for the next two years before stepping into the presidency in 2011. Three new governors also joined the board, elected for three-year terms, ending in 2012. They are: Rumay Alexander, clinical professor and director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Carol Boswell, professor and co-director of the School of Nursing at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Andrews; and Pamela Di Vito-Thomas, director of nursing in the nursing program of Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kansas.

“It is a distinct honor to be elected to the position of president-elect of the National League for Nursing and to have the opportunity to represent nursing faculty on nursing and health care issues that affect our practice as educators. I look forward to the four years that lie ahead of me in providing leadership within the NLN and working to advance the NLN’s mission of promoting excellence in nursing education,” said Dr. Halstead.

Long active in the NLN, Dr. Halstead has been a member of the Review Panel for NLN Centers of Excellence, chair of the Nursing Education Research Advisory Council, chair of the Task Group on Nurse Educator Competencies, member of the Nursing
Education Scholarship Review Panel, and a member of the Nursing Education Research Blue Ribbon Panel.

Dr. Rumay Alexander’s past NLN activities include facilitator of the Think Tank on Assessment and Evaluation; Think Tank on Diversity (panel member); Plenary Session presenter, Summit 2008; and workshop presenter, Summit 2007. Commenting on her election, Dr. Alexander noted, “It takes courage to create a caring society, which is the spirit work of nursing. I am excited to be a board member of an organization whose agenda and work is about how to cultivate and coordinate the human flourishing of present and future nurses. I cannot think of a better way to quantify or qualify my legacy to nursing. I look forward to working with all constituencies of the NLN in being a steward of change in the workplace and world-place.”

New governor Carol Boswell described the opportunity to serve such an honorable and prestigious nursing education organization as “one of the highlights of my nursing career. The ability to support and advance the mission and values set forth by the NLN is paramount to the success of the profession. I am humbled by the support and respect provided by my peers and anxious to get started in meeting the challenges before us. I would like all my colleagues to know that I am open to their comments and suggestions, as we work together to take nursing education into the future.”

Dr. Boswell’s previous NLN experience includes chairing the Nursing Educator Workforce Development Advisory Council; participating in the Task Group on Programs that Facilitate Faculty Development and in the Education Summit Program Planning Committee; and serving as an item writer for NLN Testing Services and on the Board of Review that evaluates schools applying for the coveted NLN Center of Excellence designation.

Pamela Di Vito-Thomas brings a wealth of experience to the Board of Governors. She has been a site visitor for NLNAC; chair of Continuing Professional Nursing Education, director of Region 2 of the Oklahoma Nurses Association; executive board member, Local Chapter, American Association of University Professors; president, Sigma Theta Tau: Mu Lota Chapter; and faculty counselor, Sigma Theta Tau: Upsilon Pi and Mu Lota Chapters.

Looking forward to becoming more active at the NLN with her election to the BOG, she said, “I cherish the opportunity to embrace both ends of the rainbow that reach from practical to graduate nursing education. And, the ‘pot of gold’ at this rainbow’s end is the NLN.”

Nursing Education Competencies

The NLN Nursing Education Advisory Council Task Group on Competencies has produced inclusive nursing education competencies for all types of programs. A draft of the competency model, a description of the task group’s work, and an example of one of the competencies were shared at a special session at the 2009 NLN Summit and are posted on the Faculty Development page of the NLN website. A work in progress, the competencies will be available for comment in December 2009.
Focus on the Foundation

Thank You

Your generosity supports advocacy efforts, scholarships, nursing education research, diversity initiatives, professional development programs, and more. If you have not already, please show your support of the NLN with a gift to the Every Member Campaign.

Visit www.nlnfoundation.org to make your gift.

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Helen Taggart, DSN, RN, ACNS-BC
The first to bring computer adaptive testing (CAT) to test preparation in the field of nursing education, the National League for Nursing introduced a major research and development initiative at the NLN Education Summit in September. It is part of the NLN commitment to provide schools of nursing with standardized tests of the highest psychometric quality. Said Dr. Stephen Hetherman, director of Testing Services at the NLN, “Utilizing state-of-the-art test prep technology, computer adaptive testing will transform the current RN comprehensive examination.”

Computer adaptive testing is a method for administering examination items of appropriate difficulty for each student’s ability level. Each time the student answers a question, the computer re-estimates her or his ability. Based on that re-estimated ability, the NLN’s proprietary software selects the next item from a large pool of available items that will challenge the student (i.e., the item is not too hard and not too easy) and meet content specifications. In this way, CAT tailors the set of items each student is presented with to each student’s level of proficiency. Administered in this adaptive framework, the new RN Comprehensive Achievement Examination will assess students’ NCLEX preparedness and simulate the NCLEX testing environment.

“As standard-bearers of excellence in nursing education, the NLN has once again raised the bar in terms of preparing prelicensure RN candidates for the licensing exam,” said NLN CEO Dr. Beverly Malone. “We are listening to our members, proactively working with them to bring forward the best in nursing education. This latest innovation is fully aligned with the NLN mission to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce.”
Coming Up from the NLN

CONFERENCES

June 13-18, 2010
The Fourth NLN Immersion in Evidence-Based Nursing Education
Vanderbilt University, Nashville

September 29 to October 2, 2010
NLN Education Summit
Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

Workshops & Seminars

January 7
Special Audio-Web Seminar
Tips for Successful Proposals for NLN Nursing Education Research Grant Applications
Presenters: Marilyn Frenn, PhD, RN, CNE; Barbara J. Patterson, PhD, RN

February 16 - March 25
Spring Audio-Web Series
Tues. or Thurs., 4 – 5:30 pm ET

April 7
Legal Issues in Nursing Education
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
Orlando, FL
Presenter: Linda Christensen, JD, MSN, RN
Co-sponsored with NSNA

May 14-16
Scholarly Writing Retreat
Indiana University School of Nursing, Indianapolis

Ongoing

Indiana University School of Nursing Online Courses
Teaching and Learning in Web-Based Courses Certificate Program
(4 courses)
Clinical Faculty: A New Practice Role
(1 course)
Teaching in Nursing Certificate Program (3 courses)

Important Dates/Deadlines

December 31, 2009
Annual school and associate membership fee

February 21, 2010
Academy of Nursing Education application

May 31, 2010
COE final application

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