The Voice for Nursing Education

Since its creation in 1893, the National League for Nursing has continued to be the leading professional association for nursing education. Our mission – to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce – is evidenced through our programs and efforts in the areas of faculty development, public policy, assessment and evaluation, and research and the advancement of the science of nursing education.

Debra L. Spunt
DNP, RN, FAAN

A commitment to excellence in nursing education

Contribute

Deb has contributed greatly not only to the University of Maryland School of Nursing, and the area of simulation, but to excellence in nursing education in general.

Tore Laerdal
Laerdal Medical AS

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Debra L. Spunt, DNP, RN, FAAN,
an assistant professor and director of the clinical
simulation laboratories at the University of
Maryland School of Nursing, died of
cancer on March 9, 2007 at Gilchrist Center
for Hospice Care in Towson, MD.

Born in St. Louis, MO in 1956, Debbie was a resident of Maryland for more than 30 years, graduating
from Randallstown High School in 1975. She earned a bachelor of science in nursing (1979); a
master’s of science (1983); and a doctor of nursing practice (2007), all from the University
of Maryland School of Nursing.

Debbie was nationally and internationally recognized for her knowledge, expertise, and leadership in
clinical simulation, especially the use of computerized human patient simulators via clinical case
scenarios to educate nurses and other health care providers. She was responsible for the design,
administration, and management of the School of Nursing’s 28 clinical simulation laboratories,
considering the preeminent nursing student learning labs in the world. In this role, she collaborated
with faculty on the integration of simulation into the nursing curriculum, and in doing so, has helped
prepare thousands of nurses worldwide.

Debbie was a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, and a member of the American Nurses
Association, the Maryland Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the Maryland League
for Nursing, and Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing. She co-founded
the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning and served as its first
president.

As a thoughtful participant in the plans for her legacy, Debbie created the Debra L. Spunt Clinical
Simulation Practice and Research Endowment at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. This
endowment will support clinical simulation laboratory equipment.

A Symbol of Leadership

The NLN Foundation and Laerdal Medical Corporation establish the Debra L. Spunt Lecture
to be held each year at the National League for Nursing Education Summit.

The NLN Foundation is pleased to have this opportunity
to establish the Debra Spunt Lecture. With funding
provided by Laerdal Medical Corporation, the Debra Spunt Lecture will be held each year at the National League for Nursing Education Summit. The lecture has been created to honor and recognize Dr. Spunt’s leadership in the design, development, and implementation of simulation in nursing education.

Dr. Janet Grady is associate professor and director of the nursing program at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, and principal investigator on the Office of Naval Research sponsored project “Nursing Telenursing Applications Initiative.” Dr. Grady was a collaborator on the 2004-05 International Telenursing Roles Survey, is currently co-chair of the Telenursing Special Interest Group of the American Telemedicine Association, and a member of the National League for Nursing Task Group on Curricular Innovation. Her research interests focus on the use of technology to address shortage and access issues in nursing care delivery, and technology-based strategies to enhance nursing education. Dr. Grady holds bachelor’s degrees in nursing and education, a master’s degree in nursing, and a doctorate in health services administration from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.