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NLN Education Summit 2010
The most important conference for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education

Caesars Palace
Las Vegas

DONT MISS IT

National League for Nursing

The Voice for Nursing Education
Dear Colleague Members,

Where to begin? The NLN is moving along at its usual breakneck pace and, as you may have noticed from our emails and newsletters, and our coverage in the press, there’s always so much to tell you about.

In recent days, the NLN Board of Governors and members of the Public Policy Committee took to Capitol Hill. Armed with vital data gathered by the NLN, during meetings with their congressional delegations, they advocated for increased funding for Title VIII – Nursing Workforce Development Programs and for the Health Professions Programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act.

And the League hosted a very successful Master’s Invitational which confirmed the importance of embracing points of view that are inclusive of all types of nursing education programs. You can read more about it on page 3.

Lastly, you may recall that in the most recent issue of this newsletter I told you that the search was on for a motivated and experienced business manager to direct Testing Services – an individual whose dedication and knowledge will help expand the NLN’s assessment and evaluation department while maintaining our reputation as the gold standard in testing for the nursing profession. So I’m especially pleased to report that we found what we were looking for in the person of Angel Feliciano who began May 3, 2010 as senior director, testing services.

There’s a lot more NLN news in the pages within. Enjoy.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer

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Test Security, Part 2

Recent education headlines have underscored the importance of ensuring test security. In a February 12, 2010 New York Times article, sociologists, standardized testing experts, and education specialists at New York University, the University of North Carolina, and Boston College discussed the reasons for test tampering and the risks that must be addressed to ensure the validity of test results.

And as we discussed in the last issue of the NLN Report, the National League for Nursing is well aware of this imperative. Here are some additional strategies that NLN Testing Services implements in order to provide a consistently high-quality product and ensure that all tests are secure and free of tampering, from the beginning of the testing process to the end.

- Test booklets are printed after customers place their orders. Because each set of test booklets uses unique information within the content area of the test and has an expiration date, no two test administrations are identical and testing materials are traceable by institution and date.

- The NLN insulates individual students’ tests from test-day tampering. For example, the NLN’s one-of-a-kind web-based test delivery engine prevents students from accessing other applications while taking NLN exams. In addition, students may take NLN tests only through state board-accredited nursing programs.

No testing process is 100 percent fail safe. But it is possible to minimize the likelihood of cheating and other risks to test security by using proven methods for monitoring and prevention. The NLN’s vigilance begins with the creation of the test questions and continues as scores are calculated and test forms are returned. We will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure a consistently high degree of test security.

For more information about NLN test products, please visit www.nln.org/testingservices.
NLN Hosts Conversation about Proposed Changes to Master's Education

Ninety Stakeholders Addressed Preparation for Advanced Practice in Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and APRN Roles

The National League for Nursing’s timely Invitational Conference on Master’s Education has confirmed the importance of embracing points of view that are inclusive of all types of nursing education programs when considering changes in advanced practice preparation.

The conference, which took place on Monday, April 19, gathered multiple and varied perspectives from panelists and participants representing public and private schools of nursing, nursing organizations, advanced practice nursing roles, and practice environments.

“As the voice for all nurse educators, we were excited to initiate this dialogue,” said NLN president Dr. Cathleen Shultz, who presided over the gathering. “The League’s core values of caring, integrity, diversity, and excellence provided a foundation to understand divergent thinking and allowed us to come together and address vital issues.”

The meeting addressed the following questions:

- What future models of academic progression will best serve the nursing profession in preparing adequate numbers of advanced practice nurses to meet the health care needs of individuals, populations, and communities?
- What is the role of master’s education in preparing nurse administrators and nurse educators?
- What strategies to increase diversity are required for master’s education to meet the needs of a reformed multi-racial, multi-ethnic health care system?
- What collaborative approaches among regulation, credentialing, accreditation, education, and health care systems are needed to fully embrace the role of the advanced practice nurse?

The conference provided numerous opportunities for open mike discussions and for essential roundtable conversations to synthesize thinking. Key recommendations include:

- Value MSN advanced specialty practice, for example, nursing administration, nursing education, community health, nursing informatics, etc.
- Seize the moment provided by health care reform to supply the advanced practice nurses needed to fill new roles in emerging practice environments.
- Utilize workforce data to determine what types of advanced practice nurses graduate schools need to produce.
- Affirm that both MSN and DNP programs have value and credibility in today’s health care system.
- Support academic progression within nursing education and develop education models that are efficient, cost-effective, and accessible.
- Affirm the need for greater diversity in order to achieve excellence in nursing. Celebrate the uniqueness of and differences among persons and ethnicities.

An NLN Reflection & Dialogue piece, describing the League’s thinking and the perspectives offered by participants at the meeting, will be posted on the website this summer. Explained NLN CEO Dr. Beverly Malone, “In this way, all members of the nursing community will have the opportunity for input on these important issues. We look forward to providing continued dialogue to consider multiple and varied thoughts about reframing master’s education to meet nursing’s commitment to build a strong and diverse workforce for the future.”
New Faces

We are delighted to welcome five outstanding individuals to the Board of Trustees of the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education. They each bring a wealth of experience, as well as a unique perspective that proves their commitment to the mission of the NLN Foundation. Undoubtedly, they will enrich the conversation about how the NLN Foundation can best support the preparation of a caring, culturally competent, diverse nursing workforce to serve in a complex, evolving health care environment in the 21st century.

Betty Davis-Lewis

Dorothy A. Otto

Patricia A. Hinton

Cathleen Shultz

Betty Davis-Lewis, EdD, RN, FAAN

CEO and Owner

Diversified Health Care Systems, Inc.

Houston, TX

Nationally recognized as a specialist in the fields of nursing and nursing education, Bettye Davis-Lewis has served on the National Advisory Council for Nurse Practice and Education and on the Advisory Council of the Office of Minority Health for the US Department of Health and Human Services. She is the immediate past president of the National Black Nurses Association and also holds elected or appointed offices in a number of other professional organizations: Ethnic Coalition of Minority Nurse Association; Negro Council of Black Women; National Congress of Black Women; United Negro College Fund; American Cancer Society; and Alzheimer’s and Related Diseases/State of Texas.

In 2005, Ebony magazine named her one of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans and Organizations Leaders. Two years earlier, Dr. Davis-Lewis was awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Congress of Black Women. In numerous presentations, she has been a vocal advocate for eliminating disparities in health outcomes by improving health care delivery to minority populations and has called for the appointment of more African-American nurses to boards and commissions. She also participated in the development of the 2002 groundbreaking report, “Nursing’s Agenda for the Future,” which was co-sponsored by, among others, the National League for Nursing.

Dorothy A. Otto, EdD, RN, ANEF

Associate Professor of Nursing

University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center

In 2008, Dorothy Otto, the NLN’s longest-serving member, took an extraordinary step. She donated an inheritance to the NLN Foundation, establishing a scholarship/research endowment honoring her 50 years as a nurse educator, her commitment to the NLN, and her service to the Texas League for Nursing, where she was former president. The Otto Endowment will fund scholarships or grants for BSN, MSN, and doctoral candidates who pursue degrees and/or research with a focus on nursing education. “It is my pleasure to give this gift to nursing education to promote the pursuit of excellence,” said Dr. Otto.

Since 2005, when Dr. Otto was profiled in this newsletter, she has continued teaching, writing, lecturing, and traveling internationally. She co-authored two chapters, notably one on cultivating cultural diversity in health care in Leading and Managing in Nursing (Mosby-Elsevier, 2006, 2010). As a member of the USA Russian Nursing Conference, St. Petersburg to Moscow, in 2007 and 2009, Dr. Otto provided sessions on international nursing perspectives and she continues to participate in annual medical missions that provide primary care to remote mountain villages in Honduras.

Dr. Otto has also maintained her work with the NLN, serving on the Awards Committee, on the Executive Committee of the Nursing Education Advisory Council (NEAC), and as the NEAC liaison to its Task Group on Innovation in Nursing Education.
For more than 25 years, Patricia Hinton Walker has held positions of national prominence within nursing and nursing education, as a dean, nursing service administrator, and in the policy arena. Chair of Phase III of the TIGER (Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform) initiative and a sought-after speaker on the guest lecture circuit, she is currently vice president for nursing policy and a professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD, where she previously served as dean.

Dr. Hinton Walker has published widely in both nursing and interdisciplinary books and journals on informatics, interdisciplinary partnerships, patient safety, cost and quality outcomes of interdisciplinary practice, cultural change in health care, and innovations in education and practice. She has served as a board member for both nursing and interdisciplinary organizations, recently chairing the Informatics Expert Panel for the American Academy of Nursing. International consulting assignments have taken her around the world to Canada, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Poland, and Saudi Arabia.

All proceeds from book sales will benefit the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education.
Asserting that a major gap exists in the knowledge and experience nursing students receive for the care of older adults, the NLN asks, “How will nurse faculty substantively change pre-licensure nursing curricula to teach students to manage the complexity of care for older adults in emerging environments?”

Said NLN president Dr. Cathleen Shultz, “We are fortunate that forward thinking funders such as the John A. Hartford Foundation advocate for the integration and strengthening of learning experiences about nursing care for older adults. The NLN’s ACES (Advancing Care Excellence for Seniors) project, a partnership with Community College of Philadelphia, funded by the Hartford Foundation, the Independence Foundation, and Laerdal Medical, is the latest such effort to foster gerontological integration in all pre-licensure nursing programs nationally.”

The most recent entry in the NLN’s Reflection & Dialogue series, “Care of Older Adults” posits that though it is agreed that nursing students must understand that coordinating care during significant life transitions for older adults is fundamental to ensuring culturally competent, individualized, holistic care, this focus may not be sufficiently emphasized in today’s nursing curricula.

“It is essential to our mission to advance excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce that the League leads in setting standards for teaching students how to manage care for multi-ethnic older adults,” explained CEO Dr. Beverly Malone. “Nursing education’s focus must be on health promotion in a wide variety of environments, such as independent living, rehabilitation and home settings, and acute care facilities.”

“Care of Older Adults” concludes with a series of questions designed to encourage reflection about this issue and invites others to join in the dialogue via the NLN website at [add URL].

The entire series, available at www.nln.org/aboutnln, reflects the input of members of the NLN’s Board of Governors and past presidents and offers an opportunity for reflection and dialogue with the nursing education community on important issues.

YOU ARE INVITED

To share your feedback about the Achieving Care Excellence for Seniors framework, the cornerstone of the ACES program.

Watch your email for your survey which will provide the information we need to formulate the most useful classes and activities in upcoming years.

Please help the NLN develop the practical tool we need – in both educational and practice settings – for the future care of seniors.

The ACES campaign is a collaboration between the National League for Nursing and Community College of Philadelphia, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Independence Foundation, and Laerdal Medical.

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other

John F. Kennedy

Nominate a Colleague for a Constituent League Leadership Award

This annual award program for local members recognizes two leaders that go that extra mile for their state, the NLN, and the nursing education community.

Choose a deserving colleague in one of these distinct categories:

- Outstanding Leadership (of a Constituent League)
- Innovative & Effective Membership Recruitment

Review the awards criteria and nominate the person in your constituent league that you feel should be recognized for performance and results. Go to www.nln.org/stateleagues and scroll down to “Constituent League Awards.”

Deadline to submit nominations: August 1, 2010
Coming Up from the NLN

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
AND LIFELONG LEARNING

CONFERENCES

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

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

Fall NLN Technology Conference
MEANINGFUL USE OF HIT (Health Information Technology) IN NURSING EDUCATION
Watch for a call for abstracts for poster sessions.

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

New Days...New Ways
Advancing Care Excellence for Seniors (ACES)
June 11
Hub Cira Centre, Philadelphia, PA
June 25
Seminole State College of Florida, Altamonte Springs, FL

June 25
Developing Valid and Reliable Exams to Assess Critical Thinking: The Ultimate Test
Latham, NY
Presenter: Patricia Mahoney, MSN, RN, CNE
Co-sponsored with New York State Nurses Association

CNE PREP

The NLN Preparation Course for Certification as a Nurse Educator
June 12
Villanova University
School of Nursing
Villanova, PA
Presenter: Patricia Mahoney, MS, RN, CNE
Co-sponsored with Villanova University, School of Nursing Health Sciences

July 16
Seattle Pacific University School of Health Sciences, WA
Presenter: Christine Henshaw, EdD, RN, CNE
Co-sponsored with Seattle Pacific University School of Health Sciences

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)

WEBINARS COMING THIS FALL

Quality and Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN): Integration Across the Curriculum

The NLN Education Competencies: Application to Curriculum Development

Leadership Practicum: From Budgets to Team Building

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

August 1
Constituent League Awards: Nominations submissions (see page 6)

August 31
Summit 2010: Third early bird registration period ends

AT YOUR SERVICE

“Shop” the NLN Marketplace to register for all these events and more.

Be sure to browse the calendar at www.nln.org/stateleagues for events sponsored by the NLN Affiliated Constituent Leagues.

Updated, detailed information on all faculty development programs can be found at www.nln.org/facultydevelopment.

ARE YOU AN NLN FAN?
Join us on our Facebook Fan Page.
Read, view, and post comments and photos on our wall.
Support Nursing Education

Reserve one or both now

DONNY & MARIE at the Flamingo
Thursday
September 30
7:30 pm

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL at the Bellagio
Friday
October 1
7:30 pm

Reserve your tickets at www.nln.org/summit