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The NLN Vision of the Future of Nursing

The League stands for inclusivity, representing nurse faculty teaching across the academic spectrum. Four values – caring, integrity, diversity, and excellence – permeate the NLN and are reflected in our work and in our commitment to leadership through discussion and dialogue.

I'd like to begin with diversity. The nursing education community must establish a workforce of faculty, researchers, and scholars that goes beyond mere tolerance of differences to one of engagement and celebration. We must institutionalize a commitment to diversity.

Likewise, the need is urgent to build the science of nursing education and to prepare a technology-savvy workforce. In pursuit of that goal, the NLN has created the innovative Simulation Innovation and Resource Center to help educators develop expertise in simulation education methodologies.

Next, with an aging population, we must extend nurse faculty expertise in gerontology. We must fund faculty development programs and integrate gerontology into the nursing curriculum and practice.

What all this makes abundantly clear, is that nursing education is as an advanced specialty area of practice. Through the NLN's NCCA-accredited certification program, 1,993 Certified Nurse Educators, representing all 50 states, have validated the knowledge they need to practice in the science of nursing education.

Our workforce issues are not going to go away soon. Nursing must sidestep the argument of baccalaureate entry and take advantage of the diversity offered by multiple points of entry. We must promote academic and professional progression encouraging all nurses to continue their education. And we must address the work environment. NLN research has identified compensation as a major factor in faculty satisfaction. While salary is important, external, internal, and individual factors also play a significant role. Within this context, we can explore creative solutions to the recruitment and retention of faculty.

Safe, quality care cannot be achieved without quality education inclusive of all. Our country deserves as much.