

BREAKING NEWS

NLN reviews nursing data

The National League for Nursing's annual *Nursing Data Review, Academic Year* casts a wide lens on all types of U.S. nursing programs (including the 1,000-plus programs offering diploma and associate nursing degrees) to determine rates of application, enrollment and graduation. Administered from March to September 2008 to obtain 2006 and 2007 data, the review also provides a comprehensive demographic profile of the current student population, documenting ethnic-racial identity, gender and age. Key findings include:

- **84 percent of U.S. nursing schools attempted to hire new faculty** from 2007 to 2008. Of those, 79 percent found recruitment "difficult" and almost 1 in 3 schools found it "very difficult." The two main difficulties cited were "not enough qualified candidates" (cited by 46 percent of schools), followed by inability to offer competitive salaries (cited by 38 percent).
- **Despite increased capacity, an estimated 99,000 qualified applications — or almost 40 percent of qualified applications submitted to registered nurse programs — were rejected** in 2006 and 2007. Selectivity rates (also known as "acceptance rates") were extremely low, with 53 percent of registered nurse programs falling into the "highly selective" category — a designation earned by programs offering admission to fewer than half of their applicants.

AACN applauds Congress

FEBRUARY 13, 2009 WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American

Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) applauds congressional leaders and our nursing champions on Capitol Hill for securing additional funding for nursing education in the newly passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) that President Obama recently signed. Of the \$500 million allocated for health professions training in the final stimulus package, \$300 million will be awarded to the National Health Service Corps and the remaining \$200 million will be divided between the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and the Health Professions Training Programs (Title VII). In addition, the conference agreement includes \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health, with \$7.4 billion being distributed to the institutes (including the National Institute of Nursing Research), the centers and the common fund.. See www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/Stimulus.htm

- **Capacity continued to grow, although more slowly.**

Though indicators point to some expansion in the registered nurse workforce pipeline — the nation added 64 additional registered nurse programs between 2006 and 2007; the rate of growth was slower than in the previous year.

- **Associate degree students continued to predominate.**

Associate degree students comprised over half of all students enrolled in registered nurse programs and more than three-fifths of admissions and graduations during 2006 and 2007, as broken down below.

- **Admissions have grown.**

Associate degree nursing programs admitted 12.3 percent more new students than last year. Baccalaureate admissions continued to grow as well, albeit at a slower rate (5.6 percent during 2006 and 2007) than in recent years. Diploma admissions were down slightly (4.2 percent).

- **Enrollments jumped.**

Driven by an increase in associate degree nursing program enrollment, the nation's ranks of nursing students grew by almost 20,000, or 6.7 percent, between 2006 and 2007. By contrast Bachelor of Science nursing programs did not change significantly during this period.

- **Graduation rates slowed in 2007.**

Associate degree nursing program graduations increased by only 3 percent between 2006 and 2007, after two years of more than 8 percent annual growth. Associate degree graduations accounted for the larger share of the increase, rising by 4.3 percent. Growth in baccalaureate program graduations slowed to only 2.3 percent, after a dramatic rise of almost 20 percent last year.

There was no significant movement in racial-ethnic minorities percentage graduating from Associate Degree Nursing programs between 2006 and 2007. Although the class of 2006 had been considerably more diverse than in previous years, 2007 brought little change, with just under 23.6 percent of new graduates being from minority backgrounds in 2007, compared with 24.5 percent in 2006. Similarly, the percentage of male graduates held steady at 12 percent in 2007.

• Demand for spots in nursing programs continues to dramatically outstrip supply

• Programs account for majority of growth in admission, enrollment and graduation

• Vast majority of nursing schools have difficulty recruiting faculty

CGFNS Qualifying ExamSM schedule

2009 examination date	2009 deadline for new applications*	2009 deadline for reapplications*	2009 deadline to change location/test date
July 8	April 8	May 6	April 29
November 11	August 19	September 16	August 5

*Application deadlines are firm unless extended by CGFNS.

Historic pact creates largest U.S. union



FEBRUARY 18, 2009 In a dramatic move

to unite the power and influence of America's leading direct-care registered nurse organizations, the United American Nurses, California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, and the Massachusetts Nurses Association today announced they are joining

together to form a new, 150,000-member association.

The new organization will be called the United American Nurses-National Nurses Organizing Committee, UAN-NNOC (AFL-CIO), the three said in a joint statement issued

“A powerful new association of 150,000 registered nurses aims to organize all registered nurses and to promote health care justice. The United American Nurses, California Nurses Association/NNOC and the Massachusetts Nurses Association reach landmark accord.”

today. “Under the principle that registered nurses should be represented by a registered nurses union,” the statement declared, “we resolve to create a new union of staff nurse-led organizations named UAN-NNOC” to



- build a registered nurse movement in order to defend and advance the interests of direct-care nurses across the country
- organize all non-union direct-care registered nurses (a substantial majority of the budget shall be dedicated to new organizing)
- provide a powerful national voice for registered nurse rights, safe registered nurse practice (including nurse-to-patient staffing ratios under the principle that safe staffing saves lives) and health care justice
- provide a vehicle for solidarity with sister nurses and allied organizations around the world and
- create a national Taft-Hartley pension for union registered nurses.

Central to the new organization is a guiding principle that all Registered nurses “should be represented by an RN union,” the joint statement declared.

SOURCE: California Nurses Association, National Nurses Organizing Committee

AARP, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to launch Champion Nursing Coalition

WASHINGTON — The Center to Champion Nursing in America, a joint initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will launch a new coalition that, for the first time, links national consumer, business and health care leaders to raise awareness of America's nursing shortage and its implications for comprehensive health reform. Despite a projected nursing shortage of more than 500,000 by 2025, nursing schools are turning away thousands of qualified applicants each year — 99,000 in 2008 — because of faculty and resource shortages. The Champion Nursing Coalition and

its member groups are committed to educating Americans about the impact of the nursing shortage on access to quality, affordable health care. See www.championnursing.org/uploads/NursingCenter2pageonstationary091308.pdf

*Click here for the April 2009 pdf
“CGFNS services needed by nurses educated
outside the United States for licensure
by U.S. State Boards of Nursing”*

Helpful Web sites

English proficiency examination providers

www.ets.org

www.ielts.org

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis

Find us on 