

HEALTHCARE HEARTBEAT

TENNESSEE CENTER FOR NURSING 2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER 2006

A Portrait of This Year's Nursing Workforce News



Here comes a new year in nursing! And if 2006 is any indication of what we can expect, 2007 should be nothing less than remarkable. As TCN approaches the new year, we are facing the most exciting time in our 10 year history. Read on for a snapshot of activities for this past year.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW:

◆ ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, RESEARCH

Lois Wagner, PhD, APN, BC joined the TCN staff as Associate Director, Research in January. She brings over 18 years of experience in developing and managing academia clinical research programs. Some of her current projects include grant writing, analyzing nursing workforce data, and overseeing the TN Clinical Placement System (an online clinical placement program).

◆ ONLINE CLINICAL PLACEMENT SYSTEM

The **Tennessee Clinical Placement System** was piloted during the spring with three schools of nursing (Aquinas College, Cumberland University, and MTSU) and four hospitals (Sumner, St. Thomas, Middle TN Medical Center, and Skyline). With 43 new placement opportunities being identified during the pilot, implementation of the online clinical placement program was inevitable and is now well underway. For more information, visit <http://www.centerfornursing.org/ocp/index.htm>.

◆ CHARTER AWARDS

At TCN's annual Board of Directors spring meeting, in commemoration of its tenth anniversary, the Charter Member award was presented to those Charter Members who are former board members. The Tennessee shaped acrylic award was presented to the following leaders in appreciation of their vital role in shaping the future of health care in TN: *Marion Anema, Hugh Bellamy, Louise Browning, Phil Campbell, Gary Crotty, Judy Dias, Kathy Wood Dobbins, Tony Garr, Sharron Grindstaff, Donna Herrin, Bill Jolley, Karl Kovacs, Margaret Laning, Marjorie Luttrell, Karen Martin, Patrice Mayo, Deanna Naddy, Gary Odom, Sharon Tanner, Mary Layne Van Cleave, and Peggy Ingram Veaser.* Many thanks to these members for their leadership during TCN's early development phase!

◆ LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The second annual **Leadership Institute for Nursing Excellence** was held at Fall Creek Falls State Park April 10-13. In a collaborative effort with University of Tennessee-Knoxville College of Nursing, the Institute attracted statewide clinical nurse leaders to a four day retreat filled with didactic content and experiential/group learning exercises. Because of its huge success, a third Institute will be held May 14-17, 2007; feel free to contact TCN for more information.

◆ **NURSING PERSPECTIVES MAGAZINE**

In collaboration with the TN BON, May saw the launching of *Nursing Perspectives* magazine. Mailed quarterly to all licensed nurses in TN as well as healthcare facilities, legislators, and nursing schools, the magazine has been well received by all, including some non-Tennesseans. One reader comments: “..... *the publication itself is quite impressive. The Board of Directors is in this week and I hope to show it to them. ...nicely done and thanks again*” Anne Wendt, NCLEX Examinations Department, NCSBN. Distribution schedule is February, May, August, November. The magazine is also available for viewing on our website.

◆ **FACULTY INSTITUTE**

In partnership with Vanderbilt University College of Nursing, the inaugural **Faculty Institute for Excellence in Nursing Education** commenced May 31-June 2. Held on Vanderbilt’s campus for experienced nursing faculty, very favorable evaluations and feedback have sparked plans for a second Faculty Institute to be held in 2007. Contact us for upcoming details.

◆ **WORKFORCE STATS**

TCN continues to partner with **East Tennessee State University College of Nursing** to produce the Board of Nursing Licensure Reports. Highlights from the report based on 2nd quarter 2005 data and presented at our fall board meeting include:

Trend Data			
	2004	2005	2006
LPNs	26,383	26,517	27,056
RNs	68,128	69,127	70,948

Tennessee Data 2005	
LPN	RN
Total Active LPNs = 26,517	Total Active RNs = 69,127
Total LPNs practicing in TN = 18,678	Total RNs practicing in TN = 47,898
Total LPNs practicing outside TN = 757	Total RNs practicing outside TN = 3,944

◆ **NEWLY LICENSED RN SURVEY**

To address Tennessee’s projected nursing shortage, TCN and the TN Board of Nursing are conducting a study to **examine workforce patterns of RNs in their first five years of practice**. Over 1,500 surveys were mailed to Tennessee’s newly licensed RNs with a return rate of about 35%. Preliminary analysis of the survey has begun and data snapshots will be published periodically. Call 615-242-8205 for more information.

◆ **THE TENNESSEE GRADUATE NURSING LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM**

On July 21, Governor Bredesen signed Senate Bill 0447, the **Tennessee Graduate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program**. Engaging the Tennessee Nurses Association, the Tennessee Hospital Association, and the Tennessee Healthcare Association, TCN headed a successful collaborative endeavor which resulted in passage of the bill that provides a graduate nursing loan forgiveness scholarship. The legislation allows graduate nursing students to earn a 25 percent credit toward their school loans for each year they spend teaching full-time in a Tennessee nursing school. The program will address Tennessee's critical nursing faculty shortage which is the primary reason schools of nursing have been turning away qualified applicants seeking admission. Fundraising efforts are well underway to fund the scholarship which will be administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). **Contact us should you like to support the scholarship with a tax deductible donation.**

◆ **TERRI BLEVINS ASSUMES PRESIDENCY**

October marked the end of a two year presidency term for **Peggy Strong**, Associate Administrator/CNO, Methodist Extended Care Hospital in Memphis. Her great work and strong board leadership were indispensable to TCN's strategic planning and outcomes. **Terri Blevins**, Practical Nursing Director, Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton assumes presidency thru 2008. Terri's nursing experience, ideas, and commitment to nursing excellence are sure to move TCN forward in meeting it's mission, strategic plans, and goals. We're excited to have Terri as our new president!

◆ **HEALTH CARE CONVENTIONS**

TCN continues to support the healthcare community as exhibitors, speakers, and or participants at various state-wide health related conventions including: The Annual Conference of State Nursing Workforce Centers: Taking the Long View: From Evidence to Policy; Minority Health Summit; TN Nurses Association Annual Convention; TN Hospital Association Annual Convention; TN Association of Student Nurses Annual Convention; TN Public Health Association & TN Department of Health Annual Meeting; Rural Health Association of TN Annual Meeting; Annual Symposium for Health Science Teachers; and the Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership Conference. *Many thanks to all the professional meeting and convention planners for giving TCN an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness concerning nursing workforce issues, shortages, and strategies. Great job by all!*

◆ **JOHNSON & JOHNSON**

TCN was a proud Steering Committee member, attendee, and donor of the 2006 *The Promise of Nursing for Tennessee Gala Evening* campaign sponsored by Johnson & Johnson. **All donations raised remain in Tennessee** to fund nursing student scholarships, graduate nursing education fellowships to prepare nurse faculty, and grants to Tennessee area nursing schools to help expand program capacity. The evening provided Tennessee with an opportunity to celebrate the nursing profession while raising dollars to address nursing shortages.



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Have a
Delightful
Holiday
Season!!