

TRENDS

Association of
Schools of
Allied Health
Professions

HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2005

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VANGUARD OF
ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION

Trends is the official newsletter of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (Suite 500, 1730 M St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036, 202-293-4848) Trends is published monthly and available as a service to Association members. Annual subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$55. For more information and/or subscriptions, contact the editor, Thomas W. Elwood, Dr.PH.

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

Since the last issue of this newsletter was prepared, Hurricane Katrina has delivered a powerful blow to the Southland, ravaging the City of New Orleans and the surrounding region. If nothing else, the devastation called into play the kinds of challenges that confront different levels of government when efforts are expended to work cooperatively in dealing with a large-scale disaster.

As is customary, however, when something of this magnitude occurs and the situation is not dealt with satisfactorily, finger-pointing begins as a means of assigning blame either for doing nothing or for performing inadequately. The focus of controversy is over what occurred at various stages: when it was clear the storm would hit the area, during the hurricane itself, and the results of what was left in the storm's wake.

Political leanings tend to dictate beliefs regarding whether the city, the state, or the federal government was most at fault for the many things that went awry. The fact that the first two levels of jurisdiction are in the hands of Democrats and the latter is under the control of Republicans in Louisiana provided additional flavoring to such discussions.

Large-scale recovery efforts will require significant amounts of federal money. Disagreements can be expected within Congress regarding how much should be spent and in what manner. How to offset the revenues is a related matter, with one possibility being either the delay of expenditures in other categories such as the new Medicare drug benefit or reductions in spending for agencies such as the CDC.

Also of interest is the large-scale response by the private sector. On this occasion, associations offered various kinds of assistance. ASAHP created a site on the organization's homepage to serve as a link to member institutions willing to provide aid in the aftermath of the storm. In a short period of time, 41 colleges and universities and one other association were listed. Help in many cases consisted of an offer to allow students displaced by the storm to be able to enroll in classes and obtain campus housing.

One school in New Orleans that belongs to ASAHP is Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. Hurricane Katrina resulted in a transfer of operations to the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. When an orientation session was held, it appeared that approximately 95 percent of the students who originally enrolled for classes at the New Orleans campus had made their way to Baton Rouge.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By David D. Gale, ASAHP President



This message is my last as President of our Association. The next issue of the newsletter will begin to reflect the wisdom of our incoming Association President **David M. Gibson**, Dean of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey. His institution has a diverse array of academic programs, multiple campuses, and close relationships with two-year colleges. Combined with his experience in accreditation, he will bring valuable insights to the day-to-day operations of our organization. He has a healthy budget to work with and our various restricted and non-restricted funds are financially sound enough to be applied for useful purposes.

According to my count, more than 30 articles have appeared in conjunction with my byline in TRENDS. It's only natural to reflect and wonder if I've been successful in managing to say all that I felt was important to convey to the membership during the past three years. Looking back at our *Strategic Plan* provides one way of ascertaining if I addressed key considerations associated with it. The 1st goal in the *Plan* is to influence governmental health and education policy. This column and actual expenditures during my term as ASAHP President indicate that much attention has been paid to furthering this initiative. An obvious manifestation of such efforts was the introduction of an Allied Health Reinvestment Act in Congress, three Spring Meetings in Washington designed to influence legislators, and multiple requests to our membership to register their respective voices in support of this important piece of legislation. The 2006 Spring Meeting also will be held in the nation's capital.

The 2nd goal involves promoting high quality education. Again, these pages have been replete with instances of attempts to improve the entire complex area of accreditation. It's been my good fortune to participate in gatherings of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA), the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It's worth noting that former ASAHP Secretary **Christopher E. Bork** (Dean, Medical University of Ohio) and **Gregory H. Frazer** (Dean, Duquesne University) have provided tremendous leadership in fostering dialogue and improving relationships with a wide range of individuals representing accrediting organizations in the various professions.

A service of great value to our members is the annual *Institutional Profile Survey*. I hope that I have not been remiss in failing to exhort my fellow deans to contribute data for this study. Each year, we witness an increase in the number of schools that participate in the survey, but we still do not engage all of them. Also, if I haven't done so adequately in the past, then I certainly want to acknowledge the superb work of **Ronald H. Winters** (Dean, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) who directs the overall effort.

A long-standing aim in our Association is to play a role in strengthening research and scholarship at our member institutions. For the past three years, **Mark S. Sothmann** (Dean, Indiana University) has orchestrated the presentation of research workshops at our Annual Conferences. A separate endeavor geared toward working with several organizations representing the professions is spearheaded by **Gary S. Neiman** (Dean, Ohio University). Desired outcomes include creation of models for specific skill training for pre- and post doctoral researchers, along with pairings between new faculty and seasoned researchers. Space is running short on this page, but I've tried to provide a flavor of the contributions made by our members. The aforementioned individuals are aided and abetted by the work of a great many other ASAHP colleagues. They enriched my presidency and I'm most grateful to all of them.

FORECAST CALLS FOR CRs



Fiscal Year 2005 for the federal government ends on September 30 and lawmakers are nowhere near completing appropriations legislation. As a means of preventing a shutdown of operations, one or more continuing resolutions (CRs) will be enacted. Since 1996, of the 13 bills that need to be enacted each year, on only three occasions have as many as four bills been completed. Last year, one bill was completed. Shown in parentheses are the numbers for other more recent years: 2003 (3), 2002 (None), 2001 (none), and 2000 (2). Given all the attention needed to deal with the aftermath of two hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast region, it's unclear if expenditures in other categories will be reduced in order to offset relief costs.

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved the "Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act" (H.R. 3668), proposed by Rep. Bobby Jindal (R-La.), which gives the Secretary of Education the ability to waive the Title IV federal assistance programs' repayment requirements when a natural disaster is recognized by the President. The Senate passed H.R. 3668 without amendment by Unanimous Consent on Sept. 15.

An item of great interest to the academic community is the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). Legislation to extend this legislation through the end of December was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives during the second last week of September. Originally, the extension was to end in March 2006. Congress reauthorizes the HEA every six years.

2005– 2006 ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 27-October 1, 2005- Coalition of Allied Health Leadership Program- Washington, DC.

October 2005- Scholarship for Excellence winners announced.

October 19-22, 2005- Annual Conference- The Intercontinental Houston, Houston, TX.

March 16-17, 2006—Spring Meeting in Washington, DC

October 18-21, 2006 - Annual Conference— Millennium Knickerbocker, Chicago, IL.

October 17-20, 2007—Annual Conference—San Diego, CA

LEADERSHIP

The second portion of the Coalition of Allied Health Leadership Program will occur during the week of September 25 in Washington, DC. ASAHP representatives participate in this offering along with representatives of other allied health groups. One activity that occurs at this time of the year is a report on the projects that were undertaken since the first session last April. Some of these endeavors may lead to the publication of articles in the Association's *Journal of Allied Health*.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP TOOLKIT FOR FACULTY

The organization Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) has produced a new online resource called the *Community-Engaged Scholarship Toolkit* that aims to provide health professional faculty with a set of tools to plan and document their community-engaged scholarship and produce strong portfolios for promotion and tenure. The toolkit offers guidance, resources, and successful examples of portfolio materials from faculty who have been promoted based on their community-engaged scholarship. The toolkit can be found on the World Wide Web at www.communityengagedscholarship.info

Community engaged scholarship, in which faculty members connect their scholarship with community needs and concerns, often has been misunderstood in the faculty review, promotion, and tenure process. National organizations have been recommending the community engagement of health professional schools as an essential strategy for improving health professional education, achieving a diverse health workforce, increasing access to health care, and eliminating health disparities.

The toolkit was developed in response to these urgent needs and recommendations. Supporting community-engaged faculty in the review, promotion, and tenure process is an essential component of efforts to reward and promote service-learning and community-based participatory research better.

Supported by grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education in the US Department of Education, the Helene Fuld Health Trust HSBC, and the WK Kellogg Foundation, the online toolk it will be useful to faculty members preparing for review, graduate students and fellows planning for their academic careers, senior faculty in their roles as mentors and promotion and tenure committee members, and faculty development administrators preparing training materials or workshops.

NEW COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

U. S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced the formation of the *Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education*. The new group is charged with developing a comprehensive national strategy for postsecondary education that will meet the needs of America's diverse population and also address the economic and workforce needs of the country's future. Former North Carolina governor James B. Hunt will serve on the 19-member commission, along with university presidents, CEOs, policymakers, and researchers.

The commission will engage students and families, policymakers, business leaders, and the academic community in a national dialogue about all key aspects of higher education. Public hearings around the country will serve as a mechanism to attempt to answer questions such as:

- ◆ What skills will students need to succeed in the 21st century?
 - ◆ How can we make sure the U.S. stays the world's leader in academic research?
 - ◆ How can we make sure opportunities for quality higher education and the best jobs are open to all students?
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NIH INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM PROGRAM

As part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, more than \$36 million was awarded over three years to fund 21 Exploratory Centers for Interdisciplinary Research. This NIH Roadmap initiative seeks to lower artificial barriers that divide biomedical researchers and impede scientific progress. Biomedical research traditionally has been organized much like a series of cottage industries, lumping researchers into broad areas of scientific interest and then grouping them into distinct, departmentally based specialties. To remove these organizational barriers and advance science, the new specialized centers will make it easier for scientists to conduct interdisciplinary research and will help them to forge new disciplines from existing ones. By engaging seemingly unrelated disciplines, traditional gaps in terminology, approach, and methodology also will be gradually eliminated.

On September 19, a videocast presentation was provided as a means of furnishing information about a research consortium program of the NIH Roadmap. It may be accessed on the Web at <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp?c=998>.

ADVISING PATIENTS ABOUT PATIENT SAFETY

In a study funded by The Commonwealth Fund, researchers examined readily available educational resources distributed by leading proponents of patient safety. The team then chose five advisories for more detailed content analyses. The selected materials were developed by the following organizations: the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and American Medical Association (AMA); the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); and the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF).

In addition to performing their own analysis of the materials, the team conducted 40 interviews with patient safety and quality professionals from academic, clinical, consumer, and health care administrative backgrounds. The authors suggest the advisories have missed opportunities to increase public understanding. None explain the relationship between errors and poor outcomes, for example, or review current safety standards or discuss current patient safety initiatives. The study may be accessed on the Web at http://www.cmwf.org/usr_doc/859_Entwistle_advising_patients_JACHO.pdf.

PROJECTION OF EDUCATION STATISTICS TO 2014

A new publication from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) provides projections for key education statistics. It includes statistics on enrollment, graduates, teachers, and expenditures in elementary and secondary schools, and enrollment, earned degrees conferred, and current-fund expenditures of degree-granting institutions. For the Nation, the tables, figures, and text contain data on enrollment, teachers, graduates, and expenditures for the past 14 years and projections to the year 2014. For the 50 States and the District of Columbia, the tables, figures, and text contain data on projections of public elementary and secondary enrollment and public high school graduates to the year 2014.

In addition, the report includes a methodology section describing models and assumptions used to develop national and state-level projections. The document may be accessed on the Web at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005074.pdf>.

ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM BENEFITS NATIVE AMERICANS

For the period 2003-2006 at Northern Arizona University, an ASAHP institutional member, an Interdisciplinary Distance Learning Bachelor of Science Degree Program was funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, to prepare students who are qualified to provide services as 1) Health Educators and/or 2) Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA). Upon graduation, they may be employed in either discipline.

To achieve this goal, a computer mediated, distance education major and certificate were designed and employed to increase the numbers of health educators and speech and hearing personnel. The primary target population was students from underserved areas in Arizona and especially American Indian Reservations.

Although students were recruited from all underserved areas, the primary number of Native American students came from the Navajo Nation. A strength of the program for Native Americans is that persons completing this project are usually familiar with the language and culture of their communities. The importance with regard to the SLPA certification is that it creates a speech and hearing resource person who has knowledge of the particular Native American community.

The SLPA certification courses also count toward an undergraduate degree in Speech-Language Sciences and Technology (speech pathology and audiology) and can serve as leveling professional courses at many university graduate programs in communication sciences and disorders. The SLPA program is considered an entry professional step into Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for Native Americans and other individuals from medically underserved areas.

The project faced many challenges, including the following: Although improvements are occurring, telephone land lines, wireless internet access, and cellular phone capabilities vary greatly. During faculty training to develop online courses, it was reported that the dropout rates for online courses were higher than face-to-face offerings and that the drop out rates among American Indians were greater than 50% in some remote communities.

According to reports, the most consistent hindrance to online learning was student frustration in enrolling and getting started in online courses. An extreme range in the level of sophistication in using online distant learning technology by students, but particularly among Native Americans, was discovered. High variability in the comfort and satisfaction with online learning also was reported.

Such challenges were met by utilizing the Northern Arizona University Distant Learning satellite centers and cooperating with Dine' College (previously Navajo Community College), Northland Pioneer College, and Coconino Community Colleges. Students also were encouraged to use computers and internet connections at public and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools. Worthy of note is the fact that the online drop out rate is much lower than the University's online dropout rates in general. Fewer than 15% of students dropped courses during both semesters. Success in this regard is attributable to immediate and competent responses to telephone and email queries.

Note: This account was provided by Professor **Dennis C. Tanner** and Visiting Instructor **Stephanie S. Cotton**.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONICALLY

Steps To Success In Preparing A Grant Application

Staff from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) gave a slide presentation on grantsmanship at the 11th Annual National Research Service Award (NRSA) Trainees Research Conference on June 25. The text version of the slide presentation can be accessed on the Web at <http://www.ahcpr.gov/fund/training/grantsmantxt.htm> while the Power Point slides can be accessed at <http://www.ahcpr.gov/fund/training/grantsman.ppt>.

Bioterrorism And Mass Casualty Preparedness In Hospitals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report based on a survey of hospitals regarding their preparedness for treating patients from bioterrorism attacks or mass casualty incidents. The study of some 500 hospitals covered topics including emergency response plans, training for terrorism response, experiences with internal and external disaster drills, and availability of special equipment such as decontamination showers, personal protective suits, and negative pressure isolation rooms. The report may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad364.pdf>.

Widespread Adoption Of Health Information Technology Would Save Money And Prevent Medical Errors

Widespread adoption and effective use of electronic medical record systems (EMRs) and other health information technology (HIT) improvements could save the U.S. health system as much as \$162 billion annually by greatly improving the way medical care is managed, greatly reducing preventable medical errors, lowering death rates from chronic disease, and reducing employee sick days, says a pair of new RAND Corporation studies released in the journal *Health Affairs*. The studies are the first of their kind to project both the savings and health benefits that could result from nationwide adoption of HIT.

Selected articles from *Health Affairs* are available free on the journal's Web site at www.healthaffairs.org.

National Report On Health Information Exchange

The majority of state, regional and community-based health information exchange initiatives already are beginning to exchange electronic healthcare data. They identify funding as the major barrier in their collaborative effort to connect for faster, safer, and better quality healthcare, according to a study released by the eHealth Initiative Foundation (eHI). The study is the first of its kind to report trends in health information exchange, the subject of several high-profile bills currently circulating in Congress and a key issue for the Bush administration. eHI's survey of health information exchange collaborators takes the pulse of progress of the more than 100 multi-stakeholder efforts across the country, representing initiatives in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

The survey was conducted by the eHealth Initiative Foundation with support under a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration Office of the Advancement of Telehealth. The report may be accessed at http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org/communities/register_download.aspx on the Web.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS

The George Ranch



The 2005 ASAHP Annual Conference in Houston, TX features a visit to the George Ranch Historical Park on the evening of October 19. A 480-acre living history museum located on a 23,000 acre working ranch, attendees at the conference will have an opportunity to view more than 100 years of Texas history. Barbeque dinners will be provided along with liquid refreshments.

A tour of the site is available. In addition, there will be a cattle working demonstration. Live Texas Longhorn Steer photos are part of the package for anyone with an interest in being depicted with a member of the bovine species. Overall, this social event will provide ample time for networking and seeing a part of Texas outside the usual hotel venue.

Poster Session

Another item on the program that lends itself to plenty of social mixing is the Poster Session, which includes a reception. This year, it will occur on the afternoon of October 20. Posters are devoted to providing new information based on projects involving research, education, and practice. Scenes from the Poster Session at last year's Annual Conference are shown below.

