

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

2015 Program Evaluator Forum

More than 60 candidates have been selected to attend the 2015 Program Evaluator Forum in Atlanta on February 20-21. The ACEN is now accepting applications for the next Program Evaluator Forum. Those interested in serving in this meaningful role should submit a signed letter of interest, a current CV or resume, and at least two (2) letters of recommendation to the ACEN offices. Applications must be received by July 1, 2015, to be considered for the Forum.

ACEN Self-Study Forums

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The ACEN would like to thank the more than 900 attendees at the ACEN Self-Study Forums in 2014. The ACEN professional staff appreciate the opportunity to meet and assist representatives from accredited programs and those in the Candidacy process. Interest in the 2015 Forums is very strong, and while the Spring 2015 Forums have filled, we are pleased to announce that registrations for the Fall 2015 Self-Study Forums in Atlanta and Dallas are open. Please visit us online for more information about the Self-Study Forums at www.acenursing.org.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO - DR. MARSAL STOLL



I hope 2015 has started well for your students, colleagues, and you. As most of you know, I am the new CEO of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). For those that don't know me, I started at ACEN on December 1, 2014, and by way of this link to the ACEN website <http://www.acenursing.org/marsal-stoll-named-acen-ceo/>, let me introduce myself. It has been a whirlwind two months. One thing that is very evident is ACEN is blessed with an incredible and dedicated Board of Commissioners (<http://www.acenursing.org/acen-board-of-commissioners/>) and staff (<http://www.acenursing.org/acen-staff-3/>).

We are working hard to fulfill the vision that **ACEN is the leading accrediting agency for all levels of nursing education – nationwide and internationally.**

ACEN will:

- Support the excellence and integrity of every nursing program accredited by the Commission;
- Serve students, society, and the public interest reliably and responsibly;
- Be the role model for accreditation best practices and effectiveness; and
- Uphold the self-regulatory, peer review accreditation process.

When I say ACEN, I don't mean the Commission and staff. I mean all of you that are part of ACEN-accredited programs. You are ACEN. The strength and success of ACEN is directly related to all of you – the dedicated volunteers that serve in various roles such as site visitors, Evaluation Review Panelists, Appeal Panelists, and Commissioners.

You create the expectations for quality in the form of the Standards and Criteria, you uphold the Accreditation Standards when you volunteer to serve as a site visitor or Evaluation Review Panelist, making professional judgments on academic quality. You uphold the Standards through the Commissioners you elect to represent you. Your Commissioners make accreditation decisions on behalf of all the ACEN-accredited programs. ACEN and the peer review process are strong and successful because of the engagement of the program faculty in our accreditation processes.

I am interested in hearing from you on what is working at ACEN and what could work better at ACEN. We already know that (1) substantive change requests need to be processed faster, (2) several ACEN policies needs revision, and (3) site visit teams need to be selected and finalized sooner. We are also reviewing our workflow calendar and milestone dates to ensure Staff are serving our programs, peer reviewers, and Commissioners in the best possible manner. Please share your thoughts and comments by emailing me at ceo@acenursing.org.

I look forward to meeting you at upcoming ACEN events – a Self-Study Forum, the Nurse Administrator Workshop, Program Evaluator Forum, Team Chair Forum, or Evaluation Review Panels. I will also be attending several national conferences including those hosted by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC), Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA), and look forward to talking with you during these events.

Have a successful and prosperous 2015!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, ACEN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The ACEN is seeking nominations for open positions on the Board of Commissioners and the Nominating Committee. The following positions will appear on the 2014 election ballot:

- Two (2) educators representing baccalaureate and higher nursing programs
- One (1) educator representing associate nursing programs
- One (1) nurse administrator/representative from nursing service
- One (1) member of the public
- One (1) member of the ACEN Nominating Committee

We encourage you to nominate a colleague or yourself for one of these important positions. More information about the Board and Committee vacancies, the nomination process, and the application materials that are required is available on the ACEN website. Nominations are due to the ACEN office by March 16, 2015. We hope you will consider serving in one of these essential roles in support of nursing education programs.