

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

### LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE FOR THE 2012 NLNAC SELF-STUDY FORUMS

The Spring 2012 Self-Study Forums are filling to capacity, and registrations will soon be closed. Limited space is still available at both Forums.

The Self-Study Forum is one of the most comprehensive and valuable resources available for nurse administrators, faculty, and staff in preparing for an NLNAC accreditation review. The Forum covers the accreditation processes, writing to the Standards and Criteria, and the details of an onsite visit.

For more information or to register, visit us online at [www.nlnac.org](http://www.nlnac.org).

### NLNAC SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS AND A MEMBER OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There are still a few days left to submit nominations for five Commissioners and one member of the NLNAC Nominating Committee.

The following positions will appear in the 2012 election ballot:

- Three (3) educators representing all program types
- One (1) nurse administrator/representative from nursing service
- One (1) member of the public
- One (1) member of the NLNAC Nominating Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Commission or Nominating Committee, please send a copy of your current resume/CV and a letter indicating interest to Patricia Barlow, Manager of Accreditation Services at the NLNAC office by January 31, 2012. If you would like to nominate a colleague, please provide the name and contact information, and the NLNAC staff will follow-up with the individual.

For more information, visit us online at [www.nlnac.org](http://www.nlnac.org).

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE CEO [Sharon J. Tanner, EdD, MSN](#)

Happy 2012! The NLNAC Board and staff are looking forward to another successful year marked by growing interest in accreditation and continued commitment to quality for all nursing programs. Based on our ongoing communication with nurse administrators and faculty, it is clear that you are working to ensure quality, access, and accountability for your nursing programs. I hope you will take advantage of assistance available from the NLNAC professional staff to address your questions.

2012 will be an exciting year for NLNAC. First, as we have previously reported to you, this is the year that the NLNAC will be reviewed by the U.S.

Department of Education (USDOE) for renewal of recognition. The petition for renewal of recognition was submitted at the beginning of January. In addition to reviewing the comprehensive narrative and supporting documents that comprise the petition, Department representatives will observe NLNAC accreditation activities this spring. Then, the NLNAC will appear before the Department's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) in June 2012. NACIQI will make a recommendation to the Secretary about the NLNAC's recognition.

2012 also marks the year when the NLNAC Accreditation Standards and Criteria will be reviewed, revised, and finalized for publication. The USDOE Regulations require accrediting agencies to undertake a review of Standards at regular intervals on an ongoing basis; NLNAC conducts this process every five years, and the current Standards and Criteria were published in January 2008. Six subcommittees composed of volunteers, one for each program type, have been appointed to lead this process. The subcommittees will begin their work immediately with an extensive review of the current literature, and a meeting is scheduled for March 2012. Please watch Bridges and the website for the opportunity to provide input on the Standards and Criteria as they are proposed and disseminated for public comment. We welcome input from each of you during the process; you will have the opportunity to comment on one or all of the Criteria during the review periods. The new Standards and Criteria will be released January 1, 2013.

As always at this time of year, I extend my appreciation to our site visitors who will be traveling on behalf of the NLNAC this spring. Safe travels! To our programs being visited, thank you for your support of the accreditation process. Best wishes for a successful spring term!

#### DR. SHARON TANNER APPOINTED TO NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE

The NLNAC is pleased to announce that NLNAC CEO Dr. Sharon Tanner has been appointed to the 2012 Student Loan Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. This is Dr. Tanner's third appointment to a negotiated rulemaking committee having served as a non-federal negotiator on two previous rulemaking committees, one for the Regulations governing accrediting agencies and one for the Regulations related to program integrity issues for institutional eligibility under the HEOA. Negotiated rulemaking is a process used by federal agencies such as the Department of Education to negotiate the terms of the Regulations/Rules under revision. The negotiators will review Rules drafted by the DOE staff and negotiate the final language of the Regulations that govern federal student aid. For the 2012 Neg Reg sessions, Dr. Tanner will be representing specialized accrediting agencies as the Committee addresses a lengthy list of issues related to student loans. The NLNAC congratulates Dr. Tanner on this achievement and recognition of her ongoing contributions to higher education.

#### THE NLNAC CONTINUES TO SERVE AS THE MODEL FOR ACCREDITATION IN KOREA



As part of its ongoing support of efforts in Korea to establish an accrediting agency for the nursing programs, NLNAC participated in a nationwide meeting of faculty and nurse administrators in Korea in January 2012. Dr. Sharon Tanner, CEO, visited in 2007 along with Dr. Grace Newsome, and conducted several presentations related to accreditation processes, peer review, and quality evaluation. In that earlier visit, Dr. Tanner and Dr. Newsome also visited several universities and met with faculty and nursing leaders to discuss the establishment of accreditation in Korea. This month, Dr. Suzette Farmer, Associate Director of the NLNAC, presented information related to accreditation and also outcomes assessment practices of the NLNAC. In addition, Dr. Farmer visited with Korea's nursing leaders to discuss the progress of accreditation for the nursing educational programs as well as their interest in strengthening the assessment of student learning and program outcomes. The NLNAC acknowledges its international colleagues in Korea's nursing community for their commitment to quality in nursing education through accreditation.

#### THE NLNAC HOSTS INAUGURAL PRACTICAL NURSING WORKSHOP

The NLNAC launched an exciting initiative in December 2011 in support of our colleagues in practical nursing programs. **Achieving Accreditation: A Workshop for Practical Nursing Programs** was offered free of charge to all attendees. Over 100 nurse administrators and faculty from practical nursing education programs across the country participated in the inaugural workshop specific to the program type. The one-day workshop highlighted the value of programmatic accreditation, discussed current issues facing practical nursing programs, and reviewed the [NLNAC Standards and Criteria](#). Participants left the workshop energized and excited about the accreditation process and the benefits for their nursing programs. The NLNAC is committed to ensuring quality nursing education for all program types. Stay tuned to Bridges and the [NLNAC website](#) for announcements of future offerings.