

KEEPING YOU
INFORMED

FALL 2011 SELF-STUDY
FORUM NOW FILLED -
REGISTRATIONS FOR
SPRING 2012 FORUMS TO
OPEN SEPTEMBER 1st

The upcoming Self-Study Forum on September 29-30, 2011 in Chicago has filled to capacity. This Fall Forum will be the fourth offering of this resource for program nurse administrators and their faculty in 2011. This year's Forums will have been attended by 900 nurse administrators and faculty, particularly from programs seeking initial accreditation. Attending the Forums this year were almost 100 new faculty members from all six program types. The Forums enable participants to gain a better understanding of the accreditation process.

CHICAGO



Fall 2011
SELF-STUDY
FORUM

Please call the NLNAC office if you are interested in having your name placed in a waiting list should any spaces become available in the September Forum.

We will be announcing and accepting early registrations for the Spring 2012 Self-Study Forums on our website beginning September 1st. Early registration is encouraged.

The trademarks NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING ACCREDITING COMMISSION and NLNAC are owned by the National League for Nursing, Inc., and are being used pursuant to license.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
Sharon J. Tanner, EdD, RN

Summer greetings from NLNAC! I hope everyone is staying safe and cool in spite of the record high temperatures. At NLNAC, we recently wrapped up the largest cycle the NLNAC has had in several years, and the Fall 2011 Cycle is shaping up to be even busier. The Board and staff are very excited about the increase in the number of programs seeking initial accreditation, and we wish to thank all of our programs for their continued support.

As we prepare for Fall, the staff are also engaged in writing a petition for the NLNAC's renewal of recognition by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) in 2012. This process requires the involvement of all staff members as we prepare the detailed report validating our compliance with each of the U.S. Regulations which govern the work of accrediting agencies. We are aware of the importance of USDOE recognition to our programs, and the staff work diligently to ensure that the petition is of the highest quality possible to safeguard our important role in nursing education.

I would like to thank all of the programs that voted in the NLNAC election which concludes at the end of this month. Our programs have the privilege and responsibility for electing the members of the NLNAC Board of Commissioners, which is the body responsible for making all accreditation decisions for the agency. We were very pleased with the number of programs that participated in the election and with the feedback from programs about the ease of the process. I would also like to acknowledge and thank those individuals who stepped forward as candidates for positions on the Board. We will notify you of the results of the election and introduce you to the elected Commissioners later this summer. There are many exciting opportunities and initiatives underway at the NLNAC, so please watch our website and each issue of *Bridges* for more information.

CALLING ALL PROGRAMS TO NOMINATE
PROGRAM EVALUATORS

The NLNAC is currently accepting applicants to serve as site visitors. In early 2012, the Program Evaluator Forum will be held for training of new site visitors. For the first time in several years, candidates will be accepted in all six (6) program types. Especially needed are new evaluators from western states and those from practical, clinical doctorate, and diploma programs. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest, a current CV or resume, and at least one letter of recommendation. For more information about qualifications to be an NLNAC site visitor, visit the NLNAC online at www.nlnac.org/progevaluators/pe_intro.htm.



EXCITING NEWS FOR PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS!

The NLNAC is pleased to offer an exciting opportunity exclusively for practical nursing programs. A new workshop has been developed to highlight the benefits of accreditation and address challenges that practical nursing programs may face in the accreditation process. **Achieving Accreditation: A Workshop for Practical Nursing Programs** will be presented for the first time to practical nursing administrators and faculty members, and we invite you to join us. The workshop will be offered free of charge on a space available basis. This one-day workshop in Atlanta, GA will be from 8:00am to 4:00pm on **Friday, December 2, 2011**. You must act now as space is limited to 100 participants. To provide this opportunity to as many programs as possible, we are asking that programs send no more than two (2) participants. To register, go to www.nlnac.org/PNWorkshop. Travel, lodging, and food are the participant's responsibility. Please do not make travel arrangements or hotel accommodations prior to receiving confirmation of your workshop registration from the NLNAC office. **The workshop will fill quickly, so register today.**



MEET THE NLNAC STAFF



Yovanka Heyburn joined the NLNAC staff in March as Assistant to the Office of the CEO. A transplant from Fort Lauderdale, FL, Yovanka has lived and worked in the Atlanta area for the last fourteen years. Yovanka is thrilled to apply her previous human resources experience to the exciting arena that is national accreditation. In her spare time, Yovanka enjoys Sudoku puzzles, playing tennis, spending time with her dogs, and reading.