

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

### Compliance with the 2013 Standards and Criteria

As a reminder, the 2013 ACEN Standards and Criteria will go into effect on January 1, 2014; all ACEN-accredited nursing programs must be in compliance with the new Accreditation Standards at that time. This is of particular importance to programs with an onsite accreditation review scheduled in the Spring 2014 Cycle. All programs being reviewed in the Spring 2014 Cycle or later must utilize the 2013 ACEN Standards and Criteria in their Self-Study Reports.

### Election of the 2013-2014 ACEN Board of Commissioners and Nominating Committee

Thank you to all the ACEN-accredited nursing programs for participating in the election for the ACEN Board of Commissioners and Nominating Committee. Your participation is key to this important process, and this year's election set a record for the number of votes received! The results of the election will be posted on the ACEN website by September 1st, and newly-elected Commissioners and Nominating Committee Members will take office on October 1, 2013.

Visit us online at  
[www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)  
for the latest  
News & Updates  
from the ACEN



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

Summer Greetings from the ACEN! The summer months are often a busy time for the ACEN as we prepare for the upcoming Fall Cycle. In the Spring 2013 Cycle, the ACEN reviewed 130 nursing programs for continued or initial accreditation. The meeting of the Evaluation Review Panel was held on June 10 – 14, 2013, and the ACEN Board of Commissioners met on July 11-12, 2013 to make the accreditation decisions for all programs reviewed in the cycle. This essential work can only be accomplished with the support of our dedicated Panelists and Commissioners, and we extend our thanks and appreciation for their hard work.

This year has been an exciting time for the ACEN as we continue the transition to our new name. At its meeting in July, the ACEN Board of Commissioners approved the new ACEN colors, logo, and media-related items that will complete the transition. We are finalizing the graphics that you may use in digital and print publications, and a permanent, comprehensive website for the ACEN is in the final stages of preparation. We look forward to sharing these items with you soon! In the meantime, please be sure to visit [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org) for announcements and links to all vital resources for the ACEN-accredited nursing programs.

#### ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO WORKSHOP FOR NEW NURSE ADMINISTRATORS

***Effectively Leading an ACEN-Accredited Program: A Workshop for the New Nurse Administrator*** was hosted by the ACEN on June 28, 2013; this was the second offering of the Workshop, which was initiated in January 2013 in response to requests from newly appointed nurse administrators at many ACEN-accredited programs. More than 80 nurse administrators from nursing programs across the country traveled to Atlanta in June to meet the ACEN staff, learn about the ACEN policies and procedures, and network with colleagues and other nurse administrators. We want to thank all those who attended for their commitment to improving nursing education and learning about the accreditation process. We enjoyed meeting you and learning more about the nursing students and the faculty you represent. We encourage all new nurse administrators of ACEN-accredited programs as well as administrators from programs in the Candidacy process to [register for the next Workshop in Atlanta on January 17, 2014](#).

#### ACEN POLICY REMINDER: A FOCUS ON SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

At the ACEN, we understand the many challenges that our accredited programs face in meeting the ever-changing needs of their communities. While we support the nursing programs as they strive to remain current and meet the needs of their students, please remember that all substantive changes – planned and unplanned – must be reported to the ACEN in accordance with Policy #14 Reporting Substantive Changes in order for the changes to be included in the nursing program's accreditation. The substantive changes planned by the nursing programs require that notification be sent to the ACEN a minimum of four (4) months prior to the implementation of the change. [Policy #14 Reporting Substantive Changes](#) is available on the ACEN website, and you should also refer to the [Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Planned and Unplanned Substantive Change Reports](#) in developing the substantive change report. Please feel free to contact a member of the ACEN professional staff with questions related to substantive changes at any time!

#### ANNOUNCING THE SPRING 2014 SELF-STUDY FORUMS

The Fall 2013 Self-Study Forums have filled to maximum capacity. With the introduction of the new [2013 ACEN Standards and Criteria](#), registrations have reached a record high. As a courtesy to our constituents, we have already opened the registrations for the [Spring 2014 Self-Study Forums](#) through the ACEN website.

The 2014 Forums are scheduled for **March 20-21, 2014, in Anaheim, CA** and **April 10-11, 2014, in Atlanta, GA**. We anticipate the same level of interest and encourage all those planning to attend a Forum to register early as space is limited and will fill quickly. For more information and to register, visit us online at [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org).

