MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sharon J. Tanner, EdD, RN

Autumn greetings from our new home in Atlanta! The Fall 2009 Accreditation Cycle is well underway. From mid-September until the first week of November, site visit teams will be engaged in carrying out the NLNAC’s core purpose—reviewing nursing programs in accordance with the Accreditation Standards. Although one of the busiest times of the year for NLNAC volunteers and staff, Fall is also an exciting time for all of us who are engaged in education. On campuses all over, there is a special energy and excitement generated with the beginning of the academic year. It’s a great time to be in nursing education as I am regularly reminded during my travels to nursing programs and other meetings across the country. In August, I attended the National Council of State Boards of Nursing meeting in Philadelphia where innovation was a major theme. In September, I attended the NLN Summit, also in Philadelphia, where I spoke to hundreds of educators from all over the country. From these educators I hear that nursing programs are growing in size and scope, expanding to reach new students in innovative ways, and facing challenges head on and with much success. From the Summit, I traveled to Baltimore as the NLNAC continues to support and participate in the ongoing dialogue focused on the roles and education of APRNs. In early October, I participated in a meeting for community college health educators in Michigan. Again, I was pleased to hear about innovative approaches to meeting the needs of students, faculty, and the community. As a former faculty member and college administrator, I love to hear these success stories from my colleagues. But I am gratified by the key role that accreditation plays in promoting excellence, innovation, and positive outcomes. Even as the whirl of the Fall cycle reaches its peak, I am assured that all of the dedicated work of our program evaluators, Board members, and staff is making a difference. Best wishes for a successful academic year!

NLNAC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ELECTION RESULTS - We welcome Marlene Bacon, PhD, RN, and Pamela V. Hammond, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, who have been elected to serve three-year terms as nursing education representatives on the NLNAC Board of Commissioners. In other election results, Elizabeth H. Mahaffey, PhD, RN, was re-elected as a nursing education representative; Karen Hill, MSN, RN, CNA-BC, FACHE, was re-elected as a nursing service representative; and Marsha Purcell, CAE, was re-elected as a public representative. All three will serve a second three-year term on the Board of Commissioners.

Betsy Mann, MSN, RN, CNE, was elected to the NLNAC Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on the NLNAC Board or Nominating Committee, watch for the call for nominations in the next issue of Bridges.

WELCOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE NLNAC STAFF

CORKY HENDERSON, MBA - Administrative Assistant for Accreditation Services - Mr. Henderson’s primary areas of responsibility include the preparation of QVBoxLayout Reports and working with program evaluators, particularly those on site visits each cycle. Corky is a native of Chicago, Illinois, currently living in Atlanta. Corky is a graduate of Morehouse College with a major in English. Earlier this month, he completed an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Mr. Henderson loves the performing arts, particularly singing and dancing; in fact, he performs, annually, at the African American Outreach Initiative Summit Benefit Concert.

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