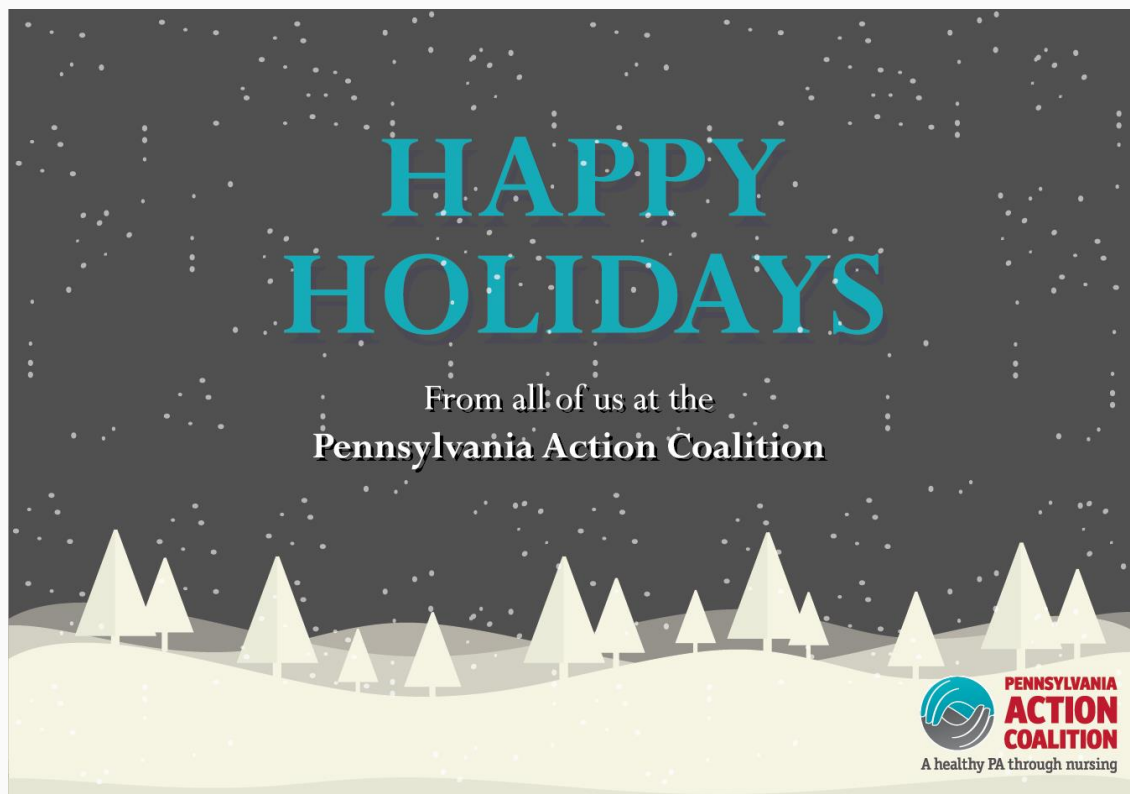


December 2016 Newsletter



A Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

We are grateful to reflect today on a busy, successful 2016.

This year, we welcomed four new organizations to the [PA-AC Advisory Board](#): the National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Philadelphia Chapter, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Independence Blue Cross Foundation, and Excelsa Health System. These organizations have

demonstrated tremendous commitment to advancing health and healthcare through nursing and are welcome additions to our dynamic group of core stakeholders.

Diversity is essential to any effective coalition, because it is from varied perspectives that coalitions draw their strength. The PA-AC is no exception, and it is without a doubt that the variety of passions and perspectives aligned to support the [Future of Nursing recommendations](#) propels this movement forward.

Building and sustaining a diverse nursing workforce is also a priority within the work of [PA-AC](#) and the national [Campaign for Action](#). In 2016, we rolled out 21 short [videos](#) featuring the stories of nurses across Pennsylvania. We celebrated the diversity of Pennsylvania's nurses at a Promise of Nursing gala. We convened 100 stakeholders representing Pennsylvania's "healthcare mosaic" dedicated to building a [culture of health equity](#). We raised nearly \$250,000 to support [nursing students](#), [faculty fellows](#), and diversity initiatives-- see below for details on quickly approaching scholarship and fellowships deadlines.

Our work to promote and celebrate diversity at all levels will continue in 2017. We will feature collaborative improvement efforts driven by nurses across multiple sectors and disciplines, including the technological and entrepreneurial spaces. We will support employers building nurse residency programs through the [PA Nurse Residency Collaborative](#) to advance nurses' capacity to provide quality care to all patients and communities. We will promote opportunities for nurses to diversify perspectives in the boardroom and create partnerships to transform nursing education. We will celebrate efforts to remove barriers to practice, so that all Pennsylvanians have access to high quality care.

It is an ambitious agenda, but we know that it can be done, because it is the work that all of you are doing every day. Rest, reflect, and recharge this weekend and get ready for more to come in the New Year.

Sarah Hexem, JD
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Funding Opportunities

Promise of Nursing funds available as undergraduate scholarships and faculty fellowships

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IS 1/13- LEARN MORE AND APPLY BELOW!



The application deadline for scholarships for select students pursuing BSN or BSN-completion degrees at nursing schools in Pennsylvania is quickly approaching! Registered nurses completing graduate degrees in preparation to become nursing faculty will also be selected to receive faculty fellowships.

The Promise of Nursing for Pennsylvania funds will support students and nurses from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, engaged in diversity nursing organizations, and committed to building a diverse and culturally competent workforce.

Funds were raised through the Promise of Nursing Gala, which was held June 23, 2016 and organized by Johnson and Johnson and the PA-AC. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the event and for your dedication to creating a diverse nursing workforce.

Applications for BSN students will be open until midnight EST on Friday, January 13, 2017:

[APPLY HERE!](#)

Applications for the Promise of Nursing Regional Faculty Fellowship (PON

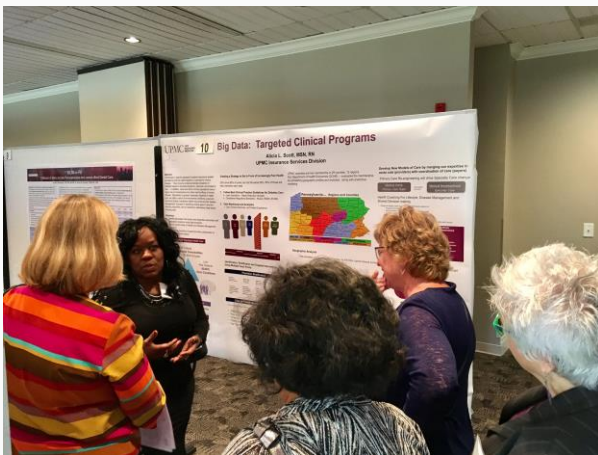
Fellowship) will be open until midnight EST on Friday, March 10, 2017:

[APPLY HERE!](#)

Reach out to PaAction@ncc.us with any questions or for a PDF scholarship announcement to circulate to your networks.

PA Action Coalition News

"Good, Successful Year": Nurse Diversity Council highlighted on Campaign for Action blog



[The PA-AC Nurse Diversity Council](#) was [showcased on the Campaign for Action blog](#) for their dedication this year in promoting diversity and cultural competency throughout healthcare and the nursing profession.

The article highlights the Promise of Nursing Gala in Philadelphia and the "Pennsylvania's Healthcare Mosaic: Building a Culture of Health Equity" conference in Pittsburgh. This is the second time the PA-AC received kudos on the Campaign for Action blog, as PA-AC videos were [announced in a previous Campaign for Action post](#).

PA-AC leads networking event for next generation of nurses at the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) Convention



On November 17, PA-AC staff traveled to Lancaster to participate in the [SNAP Annual Convention](#). Over 800 nursing students registered to connect with nursing employers and academic institutions throughout the state. The PA-AC was pleased to meet with students who were interested in getting involved and who share similar goals of creating a [Culture of Health](#) and bolstering the workforce!

As a part of the formal program, the PA-AC led a networking event for 60 students, providing them with the opportunity to correspond with nurse leaders and educators in an informal setting. Students enjoyed hearing insights from accomplished professionals in their field, and mentors were glad to offer their personal reflections. It was an inspiring event, as both students and mentors left with a bright outlook on the future of healthcare. Thank you to all who participated!

Reach out to PaAction@ncc.us if you would like to hold a similar event in your region!

Congratulations to PA-AC Board Chair Paula Milone-Nuzzo, RN, Ph.D., FHHC, FAAN, for receiving the "highest honors" at the SNAP Convention.



"Your leadership will change the world": SNAP President and Board Member Marcus Henderson, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, was overjoyed to award Dr. Milone-Nuzzo with the Honorary Membership award.

As the Dean of Penn State College of Nursing, Dr. Milone-Nuzzo is "a pioneer in nursing education, practice and research in Pennsylvania." She has served as the chair of the PA-AC Advisory Board since March of 2015, and her dedication is integral to advancing the mission and vision of the PA-AC.

"As a strong supporter and advocate for student nurses across the state, Dean Milone-Nuzzo is an inspiration to all nursing students and SNAP members," Henderson stated.

[Read the announcement here.](#)

PA Nurse Residency Collaborative (PA-NRC) prepares for official launch in 2017: Training at Vizient, Inc. headquarters



The PA-AC is looking forward to officially launching its recently established [Pennsylvania Nurse Residency Collaborative \(PA-NRC\)](#), a partnership with Vizient, Inc., to implement the Nurse Residency Program ™ (formerly known as the UHC and/or AACN model).

On November 15-16, PA-AC Nurse Residency Council Chair Amy Ricords and PA-AC Coordinator Jennifer Horn traveled to Vizient, Inc. headquarters in Chicago to learn more about the curriculum and connect with residency coordinators nationwide.

Comprehensive materials will be provided for hospitals/healthcare systems in PA that have adopted the Nurse Residency Program.

Want more information? Email us at paaction@nccc.us and stay tuned for informational webinars and communications in early 2017.

Spotlight on PA

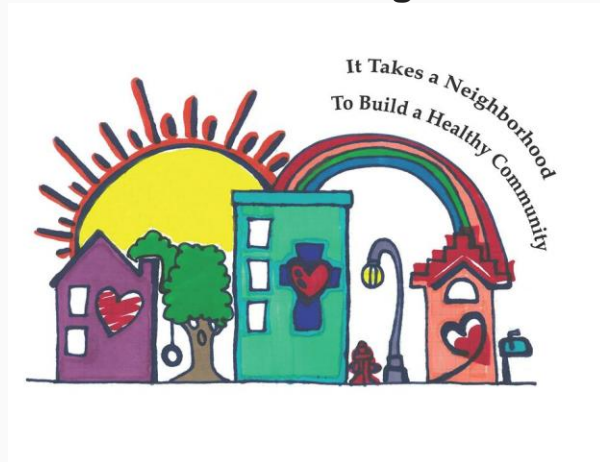
A Win for Pennsylvania's Veterans

On December 13, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued a Final Rule enabling nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists to practice to the full extent of their education and training within the VA health system.

Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners President Lorraine Bock said in a [news release](#), “The people who serve our country in uniform deserve access to the highest quality healthcare our country can provide. We applaud the Veterans Health Administration for its decision to allow our veterans direct access to nurse practitioners.”

[Click here to read the Final Rule.](#)

Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley Receives Federal HHS Funding



On December 15, [Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell](#) [announced](#) that it will be awarding over \$50 million in funding to 75 health centers in 23 states, Puerto Rico and the Federated State of Micronesia.

“We expect this competitive New Access Point funding to provide health care to more than 240,000 additional patients.” said Dr. Mary Wakefield, Acting Deputy Secretary at HHS. “These new health center sites will contribute significantly to the health of families and communities across the nation.”

Congratulations to Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley-- a nurse-led center selected for funding.

[Read the news release here.](#)

Leadership Opportunities

Join the re-launch of the PA-AC Regional Teams

The Regional Teams are getting into action in many areas of the state, but we are still looking for individuals to champion our work-- particularly in the northwest, north central, and south central parts of the state. For information on regional team leadership, visit the [regions page](#) of the PA Action Coalition website. You will be able to review the application/commitment form detailing leadership roles and responsibilities, watch an archived webinar explaining the re-launched regional team structure, view the Team Leader Toolkit, and more.

Email PaAction@nccc.us with questions.

Contribute to the Growing Nurses on Boards Database

Do you serve on a board? If so, we hope you will contribute to the effort of the Nurses on Boards Coalition (NOBC) to compile a national database of nurses on boards. The goal of the NOBC is "to improve the health of communities and the nation through the service of nurses on boards and other bodies." Learn more about the movement to [get more nurses on boards in this report](#).

Like the NOBC, the PA-AC believes that all boards benefit from the unique perspective of nurses to achieve the goals of improved health and efficient and effective health care systems at the local, state and national levels. We have recently designated a state liaison for the NOBC. Join us in the effort to stand up and be counted by [visiting the NOBC site](#).

Interested in hosting a board training for nurses? Email PaAction@nccc.us to electronically access a great resource created by the Center to Champion Nursing in America that can help you host a board training in your region or organization.



The **Pennsylvania Action Coalition** (PA-AC) is a statewide coalition of nursing and non-nursing stakeholders endorsed by the Campaign for Action: Future of Nursing (a joint-initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP).

PA-AC works to promote a healthy Pennsylvania through improvements in the quality, accessibility, and safety of nursing. These advances are the result of implementation of recommendations presented by the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) *Future of Nursing* report and through strategic partnerships throughout the state.

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