LOCEA Report-December 6, 2016

* Introduce…..I joined the Center a year ago and I’m happy to give an update on our strategic plan
* You will find the report beginning on page 55
* The WV Center for Nursing was established in 2005 and in 2014, legislation was amended to establish a closer working relationship between the Center for Nursing and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.
* Key functions of the Center are Nursing workforce planning and financial support for nursing education through a scholarships.
* The Center is funded solely by a $10 fee paid by every licensed practical and registered nurse in West Virginia when they renew their license to practice nursing.
* Here are highlights for the Strategic Priorities that were developed in 2014 and reviewed/updated annually in 2015 and 2016.

**Strategic Priorities:**

* **Establish a statewide strategic plan to address the nursing shortage in West Virginia**

*The Strategic Plan for the Center for Nursing was developed October 17, 2014 with review and updates by the Board of Directors on November 13, 2015 and November 18, 2016.*

* **Collect, evaluate and disseminate data regarding nurse availability and shortage areas**

*The Center for Nursing collects and analyzes nursing workforce supply and demand data. A Shared Data Committee of nursing stakeholders including the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses, Work Force West Virginia, the West Virginia Nurses Association, West Virginia Organization of Nurse Executives, West Virginia Association of Deans and Directors of Nursing Programs and other nursing stakeholders has been convened. The purpose of the committee is to assist in data collection and to avoid duplication in acquiring data and developing nursing workforce data reports.*

*The Center for Nursing’s most recent data release is West Virginia Nursing Workforce Data 2015, which is included as* ***Attachment B*** *and can be found on the Center for Nursing’s web site* [*www.wvcenterfornursing.org*](http://www.wvcenterfornursing.org)

* **Establish and maintain a website to disseminate information about the center and its mission, and educational opportunities and financial aid available in West Virginia**

*A robust website is hosted by WVNET and maintained by the Center for Nursing. It houses information on nurse recruitment and retention programs, workforce data, and scholarships including the new online scholarship application. Future plans include an opportunity for nurse employers to post nursing position vacancies to the web site. The website now displays on mobile devices as well.* [*www.wvcenterfornursing.org*](http://www.wvcenterfornursing.org)

* **Evaluate capacity for expansion of nursing programs, including the availability of faculty, clinical laboratories, computers and software, library holdings and supplies**

*In 2016, a redesigned clinical scheduling program was developed in conjunction with WVNET. The program had previously only been utilized in the Kanawha Valley region, but is now available for use across the state. The interactive program allows nursing instructors to schedule clinical rotations for students in area hospitals and clinics to better utilize available clinical sites, avoid scheduling conflicts and over utilization of limited clinical opportunities, and increase use of under-utilized clinical sites. One of the main barriers in the past to increasing nursing graduates has been lack of clinical opportunities. Hospitals and clinics can also access the site to manage and update available rotation sites.*

*A nursing program faculty survey was conducted in 2016 and included all public and private nursing programs. The purpose was to look at faculty vacancy and turnover rates as well as program resources. A summary will be published to the Center’s web site in early 2017.*

* **Consult with and advise the commission regarding the commission’s administration of the nursing scholarship program designed to benefit nurses who practice in hospitals and other health care institutions or teach in state nursing programs as provided in section four, article three, chapter eighteen-c of this code**

*As of the fall 2016 semester, the scholarship application has been streamlined and applicants can now complete and submit the* ***application online.*** *The Nursing Scholarship Program now conforms to the Commission’s guidelines for scholarship programs including the use of Heartland ECSI to track fulfillment of service obligations to work in West Virginia for each year awarded. These modifications have improved reporting capabilities, tracking of service obligations, as well as increased student applications to the program.*

*The Nursing Scholarship Program awarded a total of 60 scholarships to nursing students at all levels during the 2014-15 academic year and 123 during the 2015-16 academic year.   The program disbursed a total of $164,821 in scholarship aid during 2014-15 and 180,579 during 2015-16.* ***(Attachment C).***

* + ***Junior Nurse Academies***
  + ***“Tool kit” app working with school counselors/math and science***
* **Maintain an active Board of Directors of WV Center for Nursing consistent with §30-7B-4**

*A full board was appointed in February 2016 (****Attachment D).*** *The Executive, Recruitment and Retention, Data Management, Operations and Nominating Committees are fully appointed and active.*

**For More Information**

If you have any questions regarding the West Virginia Center for Nursing, please contact Drema Pierson, Administrator at 304-558-0838 or drema.pierson@wvhepc.edu or visit [www.wvcenterfornursing.org](http://www.wvcenterfornursing.org).

Thank you