

**Evaluation of 2002 BAGNC Leadership Conference
A John A. Hartford Foundation Funded Project
for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Initiative**

A Report by The Measurement Group¹

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Summary: The second annual Leadership Conference for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Initiative, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, was held November 20-22, 2002 in Boston, MA. The goal of the Conference was to facilitate leadership development among the Scholars supported by the Hartford Foundation—the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Hartford Scholars and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Advance Practice Nursing Scholars. Analyses of the Scholars' responses to the Leadership Conference evaluation form indicate that this Conference was an overwhelming success.

Scholars were very positive about their experience with the Conference. Scholars felt energized and inspired by the combination of distinguished speakers, expert panels, break-out sessions, and networking opportunities. They felt that the diversity of expertise, experiences, vision, and presentation styles of the speakers contributed greatly to Conference. Scholars were especially appreciative of the opportunities for networking with one another and dialogue with the speakers.

The information that the Scholars received helped them increase their leadership skills within the field of geriatric/gerontological nursing. Overall, Scholars felt that they would use the information from the Conference to build confidence and knowledge to lead others; to communicate and represent the professional roles and goals of geriatric/gerontological nursing in the public and political spheres; and to build a network of peers, mentors, and colleagues to help support their growth as nursing scholars.

There was no difference between the groups of Scholars in their overall rating of the Conference, though certain groups of Scholars differed somewhat on their ratings of a few sessions. The Conference was generally well tailored to the educational levels of the different groups of Scholars. However, the Conference can be further refined by having sessions that accommodate to the Scholars' different levels of experience with the Hartford program.

Scholars who attended the 2001 Leadership Conference reported that the 2002 Leadership Conference was equal or better in terms of increasing their leadership skills, the quality of the conference, and the relevance to their work. These Scholars, who will be completing their tenure as Hartford Scholars, voiced a strong desire to continue to participate in and contribute to the success of the Conference.

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