

Evaluation of 2004 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 Fourth Annual Leadership Conference for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Initiative, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, was held November 17-19, 2004 in Washington D.C. 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, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Advanced Practice Nursing Scholars, and the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University (NYU) 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 stimulated by the combination of distinguished speakers, expert panels, break-out sessions, and networking opportunities. Scholars noted that the conference sparked new ideas and identified other areas of involvement such as grant writing, policy making, or dissemination. The Conference also provided scholars with concrete advice for skills and opportunities for development.

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 inform their academic and career paths. Scholars noted that this conference stimulated an interest in assuming leadership positions, increasing participation in associations and policy activities, and pursuing grant funding. Scholars also indicated that they would use the contacts made at this conference in their future pursuits.

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, as was the case in the third Conference, this 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 2003 Leadership Conference reported that the 2004 Leadership Conference was equal or better in terms of increasing their leadership skills, the quality of the Conference, and its relevance to their work.

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