

**Evaluation of 2005 BAGNC Leadership Conference  
A John A. Hartford Foundation Funded Project  
for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Initiative and the Building  
Careers in Advanced Practice Nursing Initiative**

**A Report by The Measurement Group<sup>1</sup>**

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**Summary:** The Fifth Annual Leadership Conference for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Initiative, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, was held November 16-18, 2005 in Orlando, Florida. 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 a major success. Of particular importance, the program maximized the experience each of its major scholar constituent groups: those working on doctoral degrees in nursing, those conducting research after receiving their doctorate, and those working on master's level advanced practice degrees.

The Conference resulted in a highly positive experience for Scholars, who felt energized and stimulated by the combination of distinguished speakers, expert panels, break-out sessions, and networking opportunities. Scholars also noted that the Conference was instrumental in creating new ideas and in identifying other areas of involvement. The Conference also provided scholars with concrete advice for skills and opportunities for development.

The feedback and information obtained from the Conference enabled Scholars to increase their leadership skills within the field of geriatric/gerontological nursing. Overall, Scholars felt that they would use what they learned from the Conference to help guide their academic and career paths. Scholars also noted that this conference empowered them 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 to strengthen collaborations.

Scholars who attended last year's Leadership Conference reported that the 2005 Conference was substantially better in terms of increasing their leadership skills, the quality of the Conference, and its relevance to their work.

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