

**Evaluation of 2006 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 Group¹

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Summary: The Sixth Annual Leadership Conference for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Initiative, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, was held November 14-16, 2006 in Dallas, Texas. The goal of the Conference was to facilitate leadership development among the Scholars and Fellows supported by the Hartford Foundation—the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Hartford Scholars and Fellows, 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.

As seen in previous years, the Conference was a resounding success that resulted in a extremely positive experience for Scholars and Fellows. Empowered and stimulated by a combination of distinguished speakers, expert panels, break-out sessions, and network opportunities, Scholars and Fellows felt that they were provided with constructive advice for developing skills and opportunities in the geriatric/gerontological field.

In general, Scholars and Fellows indicated that they would utilize what they gained from the Conference to guide their long-term academic objectives and career paths. The networking opportunities at the Conference also enabled Scholars and Fellows to strengthen collaborations in future endeavors. In addition, the Conference was effective in increasing leadership skills within the field of geriatric/gerontological nursing and empowering Scholars and Fellows to take a more proactive role in policy activities and grant funding.

Scholars who attended last year's Leadership Conference reported that the 2006 Conference was notably better in terms of quality, increasing their leadership skills and its relevance to their work.

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