

# Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative John A. Hartford Foundation

Independent Evaluation  
by The Measurement Group



## Data Briefing 12 American Association of Colleges of Nursing Geriatric Nurse Education Project Graduate Curriculum Programs, Part Two

# The American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN] Geriatric Nursing Education Project

- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN] Geriatric Nursing Education Project, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation's Geriatric Nursing Initiative, was a broad and long-term effort to improve the quality of training in geriatric nursing in 30 American Schools of Nursing and to increase the number of nurses trained who are competent in geriatrics
- The goals and objectives of the sub-grants funded through the grant to AACN ranged from large-scale curriculum changes to developing stand-alone courses in geriatric nursing, enhancing clinical experiences in geriatric nursing, and delivering course materials broadly through the Internet and other distance learning media
- Capacity enhancements included such strategies as developing an infrastructure for geriatric nursing programs within host Schools of Nursing, raising the awareness of geriatric issues among faculty and students, and providing professional development opportunities for existing faculty in issues of geriatric nursing

# Key Role of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Curriculum Projects in the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative

- The 30 [20 Baccalaureate and 10 Advanced Practice Nursing] American Association of Colleges of Nursing Curriculum Projects were, in many cases, an entry point for schools without large Hartford funding to become part of the larger Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative
- Extremely creative strategies used for curriculum development and revision on “shoe-string” budgets
- Provides a series of Hartford-linked sites outside the hub of big projects [Hartford Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, Hartford Institute]

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Grantees

- Case Western Reserve University
- East Tennessee State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of Illinois, Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- University of Virginia
- Western University of Health Sciences

## American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing Schools Developed and/or Implemented New Courses [1 of 2]

- 9 of 10 Schools developed and/or implemented new courses or modules focused on geriatric content
- Of these Schools
  - 7 Schools relied on traditional media for offering their courses
  - 7 Schools utilized a web-based or distance learning format
  - A total of 26 unique course development or implementation activities reported overall

## American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing Schools Developed and/or Implemented New Courses [2 of 2]

- Both the traditional and the web-based courses and modules covered a wide range of geriatric issues
  - Geropsychiatry [2 of 10 Schools]
  - Pharmacology [2 Schools]
  - General knowledge of older adult care [6 Schools]
- The traditional courses were developed as part of existing curricular tracks and frequently focused on integrating course content with clinical experiences
- The web-based/distance learning courses were typically offered as electives or as publicly accessible modules

## American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing Schools Developed and/or Implemented New Curricula

- 6 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools developed and/or implemented new curricula to incorporate a greater focus on gerontology
- The Schools participated in 15 unique curriculum development and/or implementation activities
- Almost all of the Schools chose to implement their new curricula by establishing a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist track or by offering dual certification in geriatrics and another specialty

## American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing Schools Enhanced Existing Courses

- 9 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools enhanced their programs by incorporating geriatric content and/or best practices into existing courses
- 7 Schools enhanced their traditional courses and 8 Schools enhanced their web-based/distance learning courses.
- The Schools conducted 39 course enhancement activities

## American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing Schools Enhanced Existing Curricula

- 8 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools reported enhancing the geriatric content in their existing curricula
- 10 Schools utilized a traditional medium for enhancing their curricula
  - 5 Schools also made use of web-based or distance-learning activities
- The Schools participated in 38 unique curricular enhancement activities over the three years of the grant

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Broader Activities in Support of Advanced Practice Nursing School Curriculum Enhancement

- All 10 of the Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools participated in broader activities to complement, support, or sustain their curricular enhancements
- These activities included
  - Conducting faculty development activities
  - Creating formal or informal linkages
  - Promoting recruitment and retention
  - Disseminating information related to curriculum enhancements
  - Advancing the sustainability of the grant supported enhancements
  - Leveraging the John A. Hartford Grant designation
  - Giving or receiving awards or recognitions for geriatric related work

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Faculty Development

- 6 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools reported participating in faculty development activities related to geriatric nursing
  - 4 Schools conducted or promoted faculty development training in workshops or meetings
  - 2 Schools sponsored faculty participation at conferences
  - 3 Schools supported faculty in additional formal training such as geriatric post-master's degrees or courses
  - 2 Schools supported mentoring and/or technical assistance
- Overall, the faculty development activities increased faculty knowledge and interest in geriatric issues and helped build the Schools' infrastructure to sustain their geriatric related curriculum
- The Schools learned that faculty development were important for encouraging collaboration among project faculty members

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Formal or Informal Linkages

- 8 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Schools developed formal or informal linkages with other institutions to enhance their geriatric nursing curriculum
- Linkages were pursued to
  - Increase clinical training opportunities [8 Schools]
  - Disseminate information or provide technical assistance [4 Schools]
  - Develop learning or clinical tools [3 Schools]
  - Increase geriatric training resources [3 Schools]
  - Enhance the geriatric nursing curriculum in other ways [1 School]
- Linkages were successful in promoting education for students and staff or for educating other individuals in other agencies

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Recruitment and Retention of Students

- 9 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools reported conducting student recruitment and retention activities
  - 7 Schools marketed their courses and programs by advertising in print or on the web, often showcasing a specific geriatric specialty program or concentration
- Other recruiting and retention activities included
  - 6 Schools reported targeting efforts at specific groups or regions of potential students
  - 5 Schools enhanced course offerings
  - 4 Schools presented on the curriculum courses and/or programs at conferences
  - 1 School formed linkages
  - 4 Schools conducted other types of innovative recruitment and retention activities

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Curriculum Dissemination Activities

- The two most common forms of dissemination conducted by the Schools were presentations and lay publications
- 9 of 10 Schools disseminated curriculum information through presentations, including formal presentations at conferences and informal presentations at workshops and meetings
- 9 Schools disseminated information in lay publications such as state and local print media, newsletter, or the radio
- Other curriculum dissemination activities include
  - Paper publications [1 School]
  - Internet announcements [4 Schools]
- The APN Curriculum Schools reported observing an increased focus on geriatrics as a result of their activities

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing Course Development and Enhancement Activities

- Both course and curriculum development and enhancement activities were categorized as either traditional or web-based/distance learning in nature
- Traditional: Traditional course and curriculum development and/or enhancement activities include any didactic or clinical learning experiences based purely on face-to-face interaction
- Web-based/Distance Learning: All course and curriculum development and enhancement activities in this category include a web-based or distance learning component such as online classes, web-based modules, CD-ROMs or Polycom technology

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Methods for Sustaining Curricular Innovations

- 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools reported taking steps to sustain the curricular innovations developed during the three years of the grant
  - 6 Schools enhanced their faculty by hiring new faculty with geriatric expertise or expanding the role of current faculty teaching geriatric nursing
  - 7 Schools changed their programs of study to ensure that geriatric content and courses were more prominently placed in the curricula
  - 3 Schools worked to acquire additional funding to support their programs
  - 2 Schools reported participating in other activities to ensure sustainability of grant-supported curriculum development
- The APN Curriculum Schools reported that their efforts were well received and supported by students, faculty, and the university
- Many Schools reported learning the central role of faculty in sustaining curriculum development

# American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Leveraging of the JAHF Grant

- The number of Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools that participated in leveraging activities increased from four Schools in Year 1 of the grant to all Schools in Year 3
- 5 of 10 Schools reported leveraging through in-kind support, usually from the university
- Other leveraging activities focused on
  - Providing student assistance [3 Schools]
  - Applying for additional grants [3 Schools]
  - Providing technical enhancements [1 School]
  - Supporting grant-related activities in other ways [2 Schools]

## American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Advanced Practice Nursing School Awards and Recognition

- 4 of 10 Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Schools received awards for their grant-related work
- The awards were given by a Specialty Nursing Association, by the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, or by a hosting university
- The Schools reported that receiving these awards enhanced the visibility of the Schools of Nursing on both a local and national level

# Independent Evaluator's Conclusion

- Smaller Schools of Nursing, and those without major grants for geriatric nursing centers, are responsible for training the vast majority of nurses who work in geriatrics, and it is important that they receive incentives for innovation and recognition for such hard work
  - This program funds many such Schools and involves them within the collective goal for the field to maximize geriatric nurse training programs in innovative ways that make the most of local resources
- The model of this program is an important one that serves to motivate the entire field of geriatric nursing to participate in the development of state-of-the-art training programs.
- It is clearly demonstrated by this project that there is great value to the John A. Hartford Foundation and the field of geriatric nursing from having a program such as this one administered by a group such as the American Association of Colleges of Nursing or another large constituency professional association
- Collectively, this group of grantees has developed a large set of innovative curriculum projects, of various kinds, that have been offered to a large number of students and disseminated widely to other Schools of Nursing and training sites

# Caveat for this Data Briefing

- The findings used in this Data Briefing are derived from surveys and interviews of the Schools of Nursing; no individual data were collected from the students trained

# Appendix

## Background and Technical Information

# Independent Evaluation of the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative by The Measurement Group

- The Measurement Group is a program evaluation and applied research consulting firm with offices located in Los Angeles, California, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and a national practice
- The Measurement Group specializes in the evaluation of health and social services programs, especially those programs targeted toward vulnerable members of society and supported through public funds and charitable contributions
  - Areas of interest include medical and social services for the elderly, mental health services, substance abuse programs, prevention, HIV/AIDS services, eliminating disparities in access to services, and training for healthcare and social service professionals
- The Measurement Group has been retained by the John A. Hartford Foundation to evaluate the component programs of the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative between January 2001 and December 2007
- For contact information, see [www.TheMeasurementGroup.com](http://www.TheMeasurementGroup.com) or [www.GeriatricNursing.info](http://www.GeriatricNursing.info)

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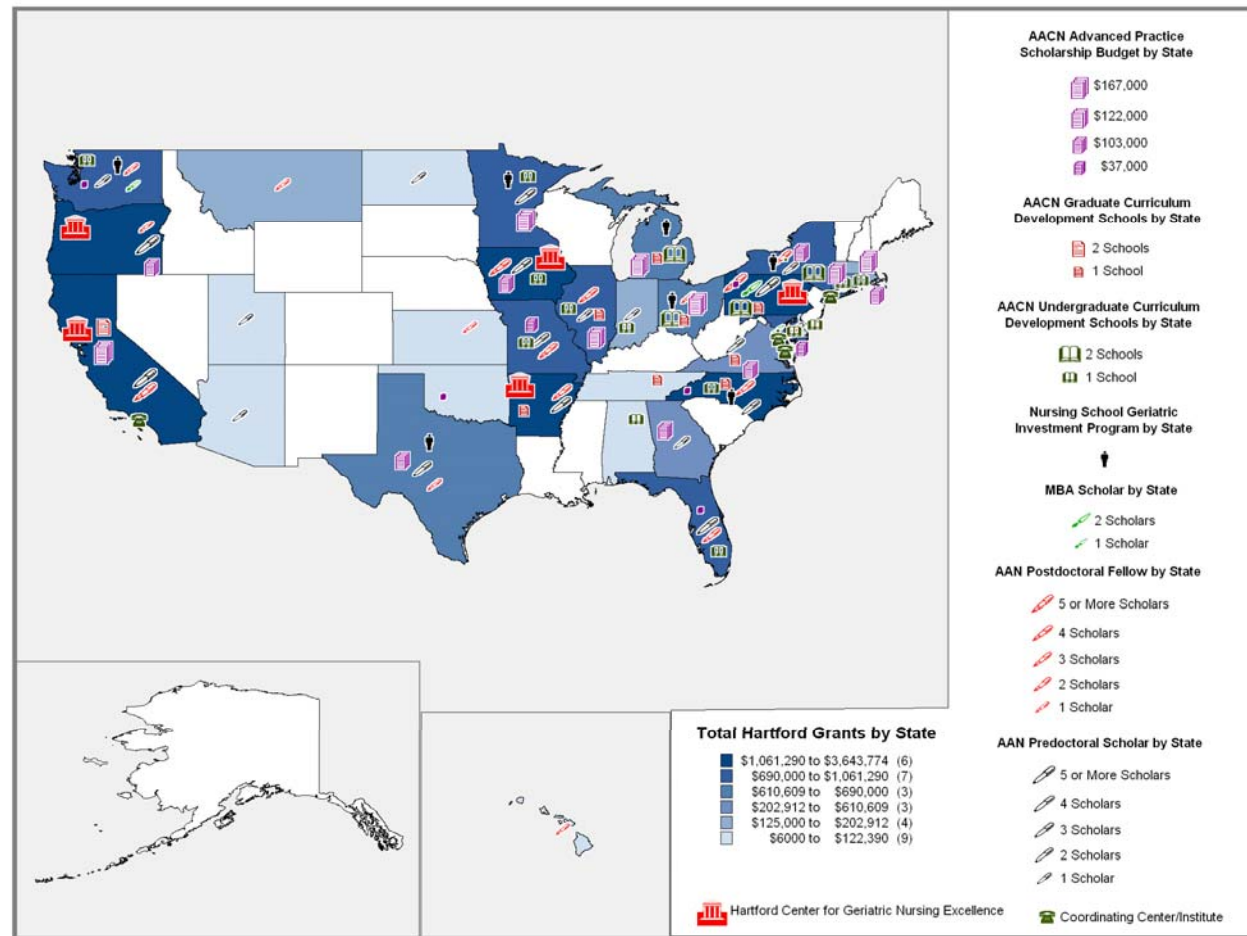
# Scope of the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative

- 1 Initiative [Geriatric Nursing Initiative]
- 31 States
- 66 Schools of Nursing/Universities
- 3 Coordinating/Dissemination/Policy Centers
  - American Academy of Nursing [AAN]
  - American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN]
  - Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing [HIGN]

# Major Projects of the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative

- AAN-Administered Hartford BAGNC Scholars and Fellows
  - Pre-Doctoral, Post-Doctoral, MBA
- Hartford Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence [HCGNE]
  - Oregon Health & Sciences University, University of Arkansas for Medical Science, University of California San Francisco, University of Iowa, and University of Pennsylvania
- Nursing School Geriatric Investment Program [NSGIP]
  - Case Western University, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Texas, University of Rochester, and University of Washington
- AACN-Administered Enhancing Gerontological/Geriatric Nursing Education for Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs
  - 20 Schools of Nursing received funding through AACN for undergraduate programs
  - 10 Schools of Nursing received funding through AACN for graduate programs
- AACN-Administered Creating Careers in Geriatric Advanced Practice Nursing
  - 23 Schools of Nursing received funding through AACN in the first cohort
  - 18 Schools of Nursing receive funding through AACN in the second cohort
- Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing
  - Multi-faceted education, policy, and research center
  - HIGN/NYU Scholars
- Leadership Conference
- Coordinating Center at the American Academy of Nursing

# Resources Allocated by State to the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative



# Professional Citation

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# Final Report

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