

**Your News From the
North Carolina Future of
Nursing Action Coalition**

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NC Nurses' Beat

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THE IMPACT OF NORTH CAROLINA'S RIBN PROGRAM

With the demand to increase the number of BSN prepared nurses and train the nursing workforce to contribute to the transformation of healthcare, North Carolina nursing professionals felt it was imperative to provide associate degree nursing (ADN) students with a seamless avenue to obtain their baccalaureate degree (BSN).

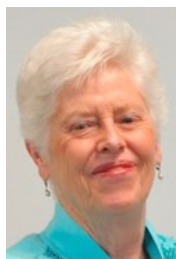
In 2008, Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College and Western Carolina University, and the Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FFNE) joined together to begin the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) program. The first student cohort began in 2010 and received their BSNs in 2014. Now, in 2015, there are nine regional RIBN collaborations across North Carolina.

Not only does the RIBN program provide an ADN to BSN educational pathway, it also provides the students with opportunities to network with healthcare professionals and develop relationships with other students. Students also had professional development seminars to prepare them for future job prospects.

North Carolina's RIBN program is well on its way to increasing the number of BSN prepared nurses and achieving its mission to improve the health outcomes of North Carolinians.

To learn more about the RIBN program's work and initiatives, please visit: www.RIBN.org

SPOTLIGHT: PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NURSING



Polly Johnson has held many titles in a long career in nursing. Many know her as the past Executive Director of the NC Board of Nursing (BON), a position she held for 11 years. Among her many initiatives there was her effort to position the BON as a partner, not a policer.

She grew up in the American heartland and earned her BSN at Ohio State University. Her talents were in teaching and administrative work. She came to North Carolina in 1973, and earned a MSN at Duke in 1980. While at BON, she helped to set up the Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FFNE) to make it possible for the board to accept gifts, grants and donations to use for enhancing the practice of nursing.

In 2004, FFNE launched the initiative to improve the transition of newly licensed nurses into practice by creating preceptor development tools. In 2008, NC and NY both received Partners Investing in Nursing grants to create a seamless education model between an associate degree and a BSN program.

After retiring from the BON, she continued with FFNE as the Chief Executive Officer. She was present at the rollout of the Institute of Medicine's report on the Future of Nursing in 2010, which led to the creation of Action Coalitions in each state. These efforts are putting a new face on Nursing.

PROGRESS: ON THE ACTION COALITION'S FOUR GOALS

The mission of the North Carolina Future of Nursing Action Coalition (NC FON AC) is to transform nursing for North Carolina's health. To do this, we will:

1. Improve access to health care by eliminating barriers

Progress: The NC FON AC's collaborating partner NCBON has developed a new position statement on analgesic procedural sedation administered by nurses registered nurses (<http://www.ncbon.com/>).

2. Empower nurses to lead in transforming health and health care

Progress: The NC FON AC is currently completing work to support the Nurses on Boards national initiative (<http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/PressReleases/2014-PR/Effort-to-Place-Nurses-on-Governing-Boards.html>), including collecting data on nurses who serve on boards and communicating the need for this work via journal publications.

3. Advance the educational preparation of our nursing workforce

Progress: RN-BSN Articulation agreement set for final approval in February, helping to eliminate barriers for all future ADN graduates of NC Community Colleges to complete their BSN. North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Taskforce (with representation from NC FON AC) will provide recommendations to the NCCCS President and State Board this spring about the future role of NC Community Colleges in Nursing Education. A recent Foundation for Nursing Excellence workgroup was formed to consider feasibility of creating an LPN-BSN seamless academic pathway in NC.

4. Promote inter-professional collaboration to better meet the future healthcare needs of all North Carolinians.

Progress: The NC FON AC is currently developing strategies and tactics for this and the other NC FON AC four overall goals.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- 4th Annual Statewide RIBN Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 in Greensboro, NC. To learn more, please visit: <http://ribn.org/library/library/documents/invitation.pdf>
 - This conference is for nurse educators, nurse employers, and other leaders in healthcare
 - It will review current workforce data, project upcoming needs, and discuss implementation strategies to combat these future challenges
- Annual Joint Meeting of NC Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Nurse Council and the RN to BSN/MSN Directors occurred Friday, February 6th, 2015 (<http://www.ncahec.net/about/nursing.htm>)
- Please visit the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) website (http://www.ncnurses.org/calendar/special_events.dot) for additional information about upcoming events

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

Let us know, by contacting us at: <http://www.futureofnursingnc.org/contact-us>

Or tell us how we're doing, by filling out this two-minute survey:

https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bEqIdOV3s7wlyDb

Or consider a donation. The NC FON AC appreciates any financial contribution you can provide to support our effort to transform nursing in NC to better meet the needs of our state. Donations are processed through The Foundation for Nursing Excellence. Please designate your donation to the **Future of Nursing Action Coalition** in the "Comments" section of the online donation form:

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/FoundationforNursingExcellence/OnlineDonation.html>

