

The 2015 Rural RIBN Student Award

Two outstanding Year 3 RIBN students will be recognized with a \$2,500 Rural RIBN Student Award at their respective community college pinning ceremonies to be held in early May. The Rural RIBN student award was established in 2015 and sponsored by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. In keeping with the Trust's mission to improve the quality of life and quality of health for the financially needy of North Carolina, the student award is designed to recognize two outstanding RIBN students from Tier 1 and/or Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and support the economic burden of completing year 4 of the RIBN pathway. Students were nominated by their faculty based upon demonstrated evidence of exceptional potential to excel as a professional nurse and/or exceptional ability to succeed through adversity.



Phone: (919) 787-2016

Web: www.ffne.org

Polly Johnson, MSN, RN, FAAN
CEO

OUR BOARD

Beverly Foster, MN, MPH, PhD, RN
Chair

Janice McRorie, RN, MSN
Vice Chair

Tremonte Crawford, RN, MSN
Treasurer

Pamela Edwards, EdD, MSN, RN-BC, CNE
Secretary

Mary Ellen Bonczek, RN, MPA,
NEA-BC

Gary Bowers, JD

Doug Dickerson, MBA

Mary Rittling, BSN, MSN, RN, EdD

Leslie Sharpe, RN, MSN, FNP-BC

Polly Welsh, RN

Charles Willson, MD

Welcome Judy Novelli to the Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FFNE) team in the role of Administrative Assistant



The Foundation for Nursing Excellence (FFNE) welcomes Judy Novelli to the FFNE team in the role of Administrative Assistant. Highly skilled and qualified in the areas of customer service and administrative/financial support, Ms. Novelli joins FFNE from Anchorage, Alaska. After completing coursework at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, she has held a variety of administrative support roles in industries including energy, manufacturing, and finance. With a passion for customer service, efficiency, and

team work, Ms. Novelli brings a fresh perspective to FFNE. Please join FFNE in our warm (literally) welcome to Ms. Novelli!



The Fourth Annual Statewide RIBN Conference

On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 130 people gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina for the Fourth Annual Statewide RIBN Conference. The keynote address, *The Nursing Workforce: Navigating Through Transformative Health System Change*, was provided by Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

The address was followed by a thought-provoking panel considering nursing's role and preparation for the future. The panel included responses by Warren Newton, MD MPH, Director of the NC AHEC Program, *Nursing's Role in the Transformation of the Health Care Team*, Sylvia T. Brown, EdD, RN, CNE, Dean of the College of Nursing at East Carolina University, *Inter-professional Training Innovation in Nursing Education*, and Joy Reed, EdD, RN FAAN retired nurse leader from the NC Division of Public Health, *Partnering Opportunities in Public Health*.

A diverse panel of RIBN students from across the state discussed the challenges and rewards of being involved in this new educational pathway.

[\(Read More>>\)](#)

**STAND UP
FOR NURSING
IN NORTH
CAROLINA!**

Your donation makes a difference and honors nurses in North Carolina.

Please consider a contribution.

Donate Today!



BREAKING NEWS: State Board of Community Colleges and UNC Board of Governors Sign Uniform RN-BSN Articulation Agreement

The new Uniform Articulation Agreement between Associate Degree Nursing Programs and the RN to BSN Programs promotes a more seamless, concise pathway for moving from the community colleges to public universities to achieve the BSN degree. Currently there are 11 RN to BSN programs within the University system and 55 NC community colleges offering Associate Degree Nursing programs. This agreement will eliminate differing requirements for transfer from any one specific program to another which has created unnecessary barriers for nurses seeking to continue their education, often resulting in increased time, duplication of courses and added cost to complete their BSN degree. The agreement is an important response to the health care industry's increasing demand that nurses pursue BSN degrees. [Click here](#) to read the full Articulation Agreement. Also, the following link contains answers for [frequently asked questions](#) regarding the Articulation Agreement.