

The following article was featured in the May, 2015 issue of NursingMatters

Wisconsin Chosen to Receive Second Grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Transform Health Care through Nursing

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently announced that the Wisconsin Action Coalition, co-led by the Wisconsin Center for Nursing, Inc. (WCN) and the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, received a second two-year grant through the *Future of Nursing State Implementation Program (SIP)*. The \$7.65 million initiative is helping states prepare the nursing profession to address our nation's most pressing health care challenges—access, quality, and cost. This important RWJF SIP funding has supported 33 state Action Coalitions. Wisconsin is one of 18 states receiving its second two-year grant of up to \$150,000. This award follows its successful first grant, *Taking the LEAD for Nursing in Wisconsin: Leadership, Educational Advancement and Diversity*.

The Wisconsin Action Coalition is part of the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*, a nationwide movement to improve health and health care through nursing. An initiative of AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the *Campaign* includes Action Coalitions in 50 states and the District of Columbia working to implement the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Future of Nursing recommendations.

Match funding for the Wisconsin award was made possible by contributions from multiple stakeholders including: Aurora Health Care, Bellin Health Care Systems, Faye McBeath Foundation, Bader Philanthropies, Meriter-UnityPoint Health, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and Administrators of Nursing Education of Wisconsin, as well as many other organizations, nursing associations, schools and private individuals.

"We are tremendously proud to be continuing with this program and look forward to doing even more to implement the IOM Future of Nursing recommendations here in Wisconsin. The work we are doing to transform nursing improves health care for everyone. We are grateful to RWJF and our many partners here in Wisconsin for this generous support," stated Judith Hansen, MS, BSN, WCN Executive Director.

The funding will support the next two-year project, *Wisconsin Nursing LEADs the PACC (Partners in Action for Community Care)*, which began on February 1. The *PACC* grant addresses two of the IOM report's key recommendations: "Increase proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020," and "Expand opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts." Diversity will again be infused into all grant activities.

Activities to advance academic progression will include annual surveys of Wisconsin nursing programs to monitor bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) completion enrollment, and development of a plan to retain associate degree (ADN) students to graduate. The goal is to increase ADN completion by 10 percent, and overall enrollment of BSN completion students by 18 percent, to include 5 percent from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in nursing. A statewide media campaign will be created to promote BSN completion and Wisconsin nursing education programs.

To support life-long learning for nurses, the *PACC* project will advance previous activities with additional board service training, and new offerings on philanthropy education. The goal for this part of the project is to provide educational sessions for no less than 50 participants, with 10 percent from minority groups. Web-based modules for board service training and a mentor repository on the WCN website will also be developed.

A new focus area in *PACC* will be the facilitation of team-based interprofessional collaboration for community-based models of care. This will include the establishment of employer-educator partnerships to develop these models. Key strategies include an employer-educator Summit, provision of educational offerings on regionally-identified needs, and development of a community team-based care model for dissemination. This work will begin in Southeast Wisconsin with development of a model which can then be disseminated statewide. A statewide conference on care coordination is scheduled for June 12 at the Richard T. Anderson Conference Center on the Waukesha Technical College campus. For more information and registration, go to <http://www.wisconsinnurses.org/education/conferences/wcn>

Wisconsin has been recognized as a national leader in diversity initiatives and these initiatives will continue within this project. The *Wisconsin Diversity Assessment Tool* (WI-DAT) was developed by researchers Brent MacWilliams, PhD, ANP-BC, RN and Bonnie Schmidt, PhD, RN, CNE, of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh College of Nursing. The tool will be pilot tested in no less than three different settings: school, health care and non-health care. The *PACC* project has also set the goal to double the number of American Assembly of Men in Nursing chapters in the state.

The *PACC* project will be guided by an Advisory Council for both the grant workplan and the Wisconsin Action Coalition, which will also serve to vet other related projects in Wisconsin to support implementation of the IOM Report. As in the *Taking the LEAD* project, the on-the-ground work for the *PACC* grant will be accomplished through dedicated members of learning collaboratives, comprised of members from academia, practice, and non-nursing entities.

Leadership will be provided for the project by: Judith Hansen, WCN Executive Director and Project Director; Carol Sabel, PhD, RN, CNE, Project Manager; and Barbara Nichols, DNSc (hon), MS, RN, FAAN, Diversity Coordinator. Molly Gottfried will serve as Administrative Assistant.

Persons interested in participating in any of the learning collaboratives may contact Carol Sabel at carol@wicenterfornursing.org