

WNA Reference Report #1 Academic Progression

WNA Programmatic Pillar: Education

Summary

We have been hearing of the "Nursing Shortage" for years, however, along with this shortage comes the realization that we do not have enough doctorally prepared professors to teach the coming generations of nurses. The Institute of Medicine report on Nursing has recommended that the number of nurses with doctoral degrees be doubled in order to support more nursing research, leadership, and education of future nurses. Less than 1% of the 3 million nurses in the United States have doctoral degrees. The DNP degree has seen an increase in numbers but the PhD in Nursing has remained flat (www.TheAmericanNurse.org July/August 2014). New programs and scholarships are evolving to address this concern but what more can be done? That is one of the compelling questions that nurses and the nursing profession face today.

Specifically the urgency to secure more doctorally prepared nurses (PhD nurses to advance the science of the profession via research as well as teaching the nurses of tomorrow.)

Recommendations: The Wisconsin Nurses Association's Board of Directors will appoint a Task Force that will explore strategies to increase the supply of qualified nurse educators through...

1. Encouraging partnerships of DNP and PhD prepared nursing faculty those results in better preparation of the future nurses.
2. Collaborating with ANA to secure funding for the continued education of nurse educators.
3. Examining financial strategies that would include the following:
 - a. Increased funding for all schools to hire more faculty.
 - b. Support an increase in salaries for nursing faculty.
 - c. Increase support for students.