

September 10, 2008

Dear Consortia Participant:

For the past seven years, the University of Illinois Chicago, College of Nursing's, Advancing Public Health Nursing Education (APHNE) in Illinois grant has requested your participation on either the State Advisory Board and/or in one of the consortium – Chicago, Peoria, Quad-Cities, Rockford, or Urbana. Together we (APHNE) have accomplished much advancement for public health nursing especially in three specific areas of public health nursing.

- First, the constant charge to create and continually strengthen a first-rate public health nursing graduate curriculum for the Advanced Community Health Nursing (MS) and joint-degree Master's in Science/Master's in Public Health (MS/MPH). APHNE further inspired the formation of the Graduate Entry Program making nursing education possible for individuals wishing to make a career change and the development of the new Doctorate in Nursing Practice, a doctorate program recognizing practice nurses at the highest educational level. While APHNE's charge has focused on graduate curriculum, attention and support were provided with curriculum conversion to online for the RN to BSN program and Global Campus. <http://global.uillinois.edu/>
- Second, APHNE recognized the disconnect between research and practice and formed a partnership of public health nurses and librarians to develop with National Library of Medicine (NLM) funds the Evidence Base Public Health Nursing website. <http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/projects/ebphn/> This website offers an online tutorial instructing how best to locate, access, and retrieve the evidence supporting their practice; a digital repository of the most current graduate research; and weblinks resources making the site a one-stop shop for public health nursing information. Additionally, the NLM funds supported 17 workshops throughout the state educating 171 participants from academia (university/college public health nursing faculty and their students) and from nurses practicing in population-focused agencies.
- Third, APHNE tackled probably the greatest and toughest challenge – making public health nursing visible! With a collaboration of Bradley University art students, APHNE created a set of award winning posters accurately depicting public health nursing. These posters won marketing's "silver" Addy (an Addy is equivalent to an Oscar) and have been accepted by American Public Health Association and Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing and are being used for the promotion, recruitment, and retention of public health nursing throughout the US and in Canada.

APHNE is entering the third year of an unprecedented third funding cycle and will begin writing for further funding as we continue the charge of advancing public health nursing. However, the structure of APHNE is ever-changing. In the past we invited public health nurses from academia and practice to participate with the State Advisory Board and/or Consortia. The State Advisory Board meets twice a year (once in Fall and once in Spring with the latter being the PHN Summit). The Consortia initially met in each region twice a semester (Fall and Spring), then as time passed these meetings were reduced to once a semester with last year not meeting at all. **To be more efficient with your time and**

**resources, we are disbanding the Consortia and asking that you continue your support as a member of the State Advisory Board.**

APHNE is by no means done with its work and still needs the component that made it so great and that is YOU! We do not want to lose the voice and insight of those in practice as well as our academic partners in other nursing programs; therefore, please plan to attend the next APHNE State Advisory Board Meeting.

**Date: Thursday, October 9**  
**Time: 8:30 to 4**  
**Location: Hyatt at the McDonald's Campus in Oak Brook, IL**

Bobbi Lyons, the APHNE Project Director is updating the APHNE database for those wishing to continue their participation with this project; therefore, please contact her if you have any changes 309.495-8164 or bobbil@uic.edu. In the meantime, please accept this Certificate of Appreciation for your participation in the Health Resources and Services Administration's, *Advancing Public Health Nursing Education in Illinois* training grant.

Respectfully,

Kathleen A. Baldwin, PhD, RN

L. Michele Issel, PhD, RN