President’s Message: Guest Post
by Armando “Mandy” Riera

As we near the end of the year 2015, I took a step back to reflect what the last 36 years have represented in my life, and the changes that have taken place. Thanks to God, I migrated in 1980 from Cuba as part of the Mariel Boatlift looking for freedom. I had started medical school in Cuba, and migrating to the United States promised the opportunity to continue my studies. It was a difficult transition and voyage, and there was a point where I didn’t think I could leave my country for a new land. Once in the Florida straights, I became very ill and felt like I would fall overboard. During this difficult time, I remembered my father always yearning to live in a land of freedom. My father died when I was just 14 years old and it was up to me to fulfill his dream for myself and for my family. Instantly, I had to grow up, be a responsible man, and take on the role of head of family.

I started as a busboy at a restaurant in Miami. My first job in the hospital was as a transport assistant while I was going to school to be a scrub tech. It was my operating room nurses that encouraged me to pursue my nursing career. During my career as a nurse, I have been very active in different associations, such as the Association of Operating Room Nurses. I’ve been active on a local, regional, and national level.

It was when I was with the Association of Operating Room Nurses that my boss at the time asked me to help her revamp the Miami Chapter of National Association of Hispanic Nurses because at the time it was fading. I accepted and have been involved ever since. Becoming involved in NAHN has afforded me the opportunity to better assist other Hispanic nurses, and also has provided me with the tools to take better care of the patients that we serve here in Miami, as in this community, Hispanics are the majority. In NAHN, I have also found an extended family. It has helped me grow as an individual and as a professional. It has presented me with the opportunity to work with leaders that have inspired me to become valuable my field. I am a proud member of NAHN and extremely proud to be Hispanic. I hold my head high wherever I go and represent my heritage with the utmost of dignity. At the same time, I’m proud to be a member of NAHN and to be part of this growing organization.

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year.
Congratulations to Lucia J. Alfano, RN, MA and Dr. Gina Miranda-Diaz, RN for being chosen to receive the Culture of Health: Breakthrough Leaders in Nursing award, sponsored by the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action. This honor includes a leadership development scholarship from the Center for Creative Leadership, fully funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Lucia and Gina were publically acknowledged at the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action’s “Leading Change & Building Healthier Communities” national Summit in Washington, D.C., on December 9-10. Congratulations, Lucia and Gina!

Dr. Carol Bloch and Dr. Carolyn Bloch were inducted as Scholars into the Transcultural Nursing Society, International on October 29, 2015. Dr. Beverly Horn, Executive Director, presented both with this recognition at the Annual Transcultural Nursing Society Conference in Portland, Oregon.

NAHN member and founding president of the Garden State chapter, Alana Cueto, MSN, RN, CNL, was recognized at the 2015 Seton Hall University College of Nursing Haley Awards as the honoree of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Young Alumni Award for having distinguished herself through her professional nursing achievements.

Additionally, on October 24th, Alana was the recipient of the prestigious Health Advocate Award, a special Congressional recognition given by the State’s Senator Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez. This honorary award was given at the 5th Annual Hispanic Leadership Summit of New Jersey, where Alana served on a speaker panel, Empowering A Healthier Hispanic Community, discussing the health disparities that exist within the Latino population and the role of the medical community in engaging and empowering our communities for better health outcomes.

Yolanda Delgado, MSN, RNC, CNML obtained a national certification from the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) - Certified Nurse Manager Leader. Great work, Yolanda!

Elizabeth Florez, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, DePaul University, School of Nursing has been appointed the new Chair of the NAHN Education Committee. Many thanks to Helen Christina Ballestas, PhD, RN, ANP-BC who served as the Chair for almost two years.

Thank you, Roberto Gonzalez, USAF Ret, RN, President of the NAHN North East Ohio Chapter for representing NAHN at the Ohio Action Coalition Diversity Think Tank!

Susana Gonzalez, MHA, MSN, CNML, was recognized as Nurse of the Year at the March of Dimes 18th Annual Jonas Health Leadership Awards on September 18 in Chicago, IL. Susana models true servant leadership in her life. Her passion for inspiring nurses is part
of her commitment to make the world a better place. The March of Dimes honored her for the loyal and active role she plays on issues related to women, youth, children, and the nursing profession.

Congratulations to Sylvia Lopez, RN, MSN, on earning her MSN degree at William Patterson University. Great work!

In addition, Save Latin America, an organization providing opportunities, awareness and access for Hispanic Americans, has recognized Gina for her outstanding dedication, commitment and contributions to the Hispanic Communities of New Jersey.

Also, the 7th Edition of Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care is now in print, featuring Dr. Miranda-Diaz as a contributing author along with Diana J. Mason, PhD, RN, FAAN. Way to go, Gina!

Ana Nogueira, RN, MSN, MBA completed her dual degrees from University of Phoenix. Bravo, Ana!

On December 7, Rebecca Santiago, BSN, RN, N&PN, FCN, received the Hartford Business Journal Healthcare Hero Award, identifying her as an outstanding leader in the health care industry. Congratulations, Rebecca!

In addition, Rebecca was recently featured in an article by Hospitals & Health Networks magazine. To view the article, click here.

Dr. Neddie Serra, Nursing Director at Bloomfield College, has been appointed to the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing by Governor Chris Christie. NJCCN delivers leadership, education, research and innovation for a strong nursing force dedicated to quality care for New Jersey citizens. Congratulations, Neddie!

The Alliance for Ethical International Recruitment Practices has announced the appointment of its new governing board, which includes NAHN President, Dan Suarez, BSN, MA, RN. Congratulations, Dan!

NAHN Angels

In this section, we recognize the members who have donated funds to NAHN. Please thank the following member for his donation and support of NAHN.

• Mario Alfredo Martinez Chavez, MSN, FNP

Becoming a NAHN Angel is very simple! You can donate money when you renew or donate any time by going to http://www.nahnnet.org/NAHNDonate.html.

You can designate how you want your donation used (e.g. Student Scholarships, Member Education, General Association Needs, or Unspecified) by indicating your intention in the “Add your message” link on the second donation screen. You can also send us a check!

NAHN Ambassadors

Become a NAHN Ambassador by recruiting new members!

Thank you to the individuals below, who recruited the following number of new members from Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, 2015.

• Corina Chick: 12
• Alana Cueto: 11
• Ruth Amador: 6
• Maria Krol: 5
• Daisy Perez: 3
• Sylvia Gonzalez: 3
• Sylvia Pelroy: 3
• Veronica Vital: 3

The following members referred one new member:

Barb Hannon; Carmen Torres; Christine Chandler; Dora Acevedo; Doreen Muriz; Dottie Rodriguez; Elizabeth Florez; Elizabeth Kolstad; Ellie Marsh; Erica Gentiles; Francisco Diaz; Gale Garcia; Giselle Estrada; Grecia Ramirez; Isis Reyes; Isolina Pistolelli; Janet Treigh; Jenn McGuire; Kim Giwa; Kristen Coleman; Leda Garside; Magna Angel; Maria Martinez; Monica Garcia; Nicole Gomez; Rebeca Ibarra; Rose Lopez; and Virginia Chardon.

Please keep in mind your name needs to be on the Member Referral line on a NEW member’s application to get credit.

NAHN Chapter Tidbits

Garden State Chapter

Garden State’s president, Alana Cueto and NY NAHN’s secretary, Caroline Ortiz, collaborated on a Women Healthcare Executives Panel Discussion hosted by the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), held on Nov. 19th at Berkeley College Woodland NJ Campus. The panel addressed undergraduate first-generation college students majoring in health services administration. The students were predominantly minority and female who balance college, work and family.
The Garden State Chapter is pleased to announce that it successfully held its 1st Annual Education Symposium, Scholarship Awards Lunch & Cultural Celebration having awarded five $1,000 scholarships and offering three education tracks; leadership, clinical and student track leading to six (6) professional contact hours.

The Garden State team members would like to thank its sponsors the American Heart Association (AHA), Pfizer Rx Pathways, the Coca-Cola Company, New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA), Ana G. Mendez University System and Barnabas Health Systems. We’d also like to thank our 40+ table vendors and a special thank you to the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ for hosting our event and for providing our registered attendees four (4) tickets to the Devils game in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Congratulations to our student winners!

The Garden State Chapter is excited to announce that it shall serve as health contributors to Latino Motion with host, Bert Lopez. Latino Motion is a weekly interview show highlighting issues impacting the local South Jersey Latino Community, while advancing understanding of Latino cultural heritage and contributions to our society!

On November 1st, the Garden State Chapter launched “In the Garden” the official newsletter of the Garden State Chapter of National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN). This newsletter serves as a vehicle for our chapter members to share their accomplishments and community outreach efforts here in our beautiful home state of NJ. We are excited to launch this quarterly newsletter as we build and grow our chapter with our partners in health! To view the newsletter you can visit our chapter website at http://www.gardenstate-nahn.org

The Garden State Chapter has formed a partnership with HHQI Home Health Quality Improvement, a national campaign (under the umbrella of CMS), to improve quality of care provided to America’s home health patients. As health care is trending towards home health, our chapter sought out methods to provide advocacy and education to this population of patients. Some of our chapter member’s contributions include:

- Chapter Marketing Chair Viviana Lozano, BSN, RN, NCBHP

New Jersey Chapter

Congratulations to the NAHN New Jersey Chapter on their recent recognitions!

First, the Chapter has been recognized by the New Jersey State Nurses Association, receiving an Outstanding Service Award in recognition and appreciation for their dedication and commitment to creating an environment that fosters appreciation for cultural diversity among nurses.

In addition, the Chapter was recently honored and saluted by The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, commending the organization for its exemplary dedication and motivation that has contributed to its sterling reputation and for having fostered excellence and quality in healthcare delivery.

New York Chapter

In late November, a health and wellness fair for the Spanish-speaking community was held at Great Neck House. Paz Menjivar, RN, Great Neck member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) and a bilingual community activist, spearheaded the event by collaborating with various agencies to provide information for attendees in English, Spanish and Chinese.

With the support of Daniel Suarez, MA, RN, president of NAHN, as well as his wife, Vivian Torres-Suarez, RN, MBA, BSN, president of the New York NAHN chapter, Menjivar rallied together many volunteers for the Fair.

For the complete article, click here.
NAHN Update

With just one click...
You can help NAHN increase membership and end our year strong!

As 2015 draws to a close, it’s a good time to reflect on our accomplishments, and set goals for the new year ahead. While our membership has been growing to almost 2,000, we want to make sure our end of the year is stronger than ever.

That’s why we are reaching out to you, our members, with a goal and an opportunity. From December 10 to December 31, every current NAHN member that recruits one new member to join NAHN will be eligible for some wonderful incentives.

For every person you recruit, you will have a chance to win:
• A two-year free membership to NAHN
• A $100 discount on our annual conference registration
• Or, you can donate it back to NAHN!

By helping to grow NAHN, not only does it increase our reach across the nation, but also gives us the opportunity to provide more for our members. It also provides you with an expanding network of colleagues to help advance your career.

Please take advantage of this great opportunity, and think about who YOU can bring into NAHN today. With one click, we can grow our organization together!

Recruit a member today at http://www.nahnnet.org/NAHNMembership.html.

Special Scholarship Donation Campaign

Do you remember when you first started on your journey of nursing? The uncertainty you faced, the work, and all of the knowledge you were trying to absorb. Now imagine on top of that not knowing if you’ll be able to reach your end goal due to financial stress.

At NAHN we are not only a community, but a family. It’s our duty to ensure the future of our profession by helping current NAHN members who are students of a two-year associate nursing degree program.

We encourage you as members to help current nursing students finish their journey, by donating to our scholarship campaign. Please contribute to help us meet our mission to advance the health in Hispanic communities and to lead, promote and advocate the educational, professional, and leadership opportunities for Hispanic nurses. How much we can contribute to their success depends on you, our members.

Imagine, as we are so close to 2,000 members, if each of us was able to make even a small donation. We could accomplish so much, and give directly to our community, our members, and the future of our profession.

Our NAHN President Dan Suarez, RN, MA has already challenged the past presidents to donate, and several have already contributed (see next column). Won’t you join them as well?

Please click below to learn more, and donate today. NAHN thanks you for your generosity.


Every contribution you make to NAHN helps improve healthcare in all of our communities. All of your contributions are tax deductible and NAHN is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

NAHN Past President Challenge Scholarship Fund

NAHN President Dan Suarez, RN, MA has established the Past President Challenge Scholarship Fund to offer scholarships to unlicensed NAHN members who are enrolled in a nursing program. Applicants will be able to enter into this scholarship competition by using the regular NAHN scholarship application form that will be launched early in 2016.

We want to thank the following NAHN Past Presidents who have already contributed to the Fund. They will receive a special recognition at the NAHN Annual Gala.

• Hector Hugo Gonzalez, PhD, VR-RN (Retired)
• Carmen Portillo, PhD, RN, FAAN
• Niida (Nena) Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Angie Millan Chosen as 2015 NAHN Nurse of the Year

NAHN Past President Angie Millan, DNP, RN, FAAN was chosen as this year’s NAHN Nurse of the Year on October 16, 2015. NAHN held a reception for Angie and for the new Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN), Jeanne-Marie R. Stacciarini, RN, PhD and Robert Lucero, PhD, MPH, RN, at the Academy’s Annual Policy Conference in Washington DC.

Approximately 35 individuals attended the reception including NAHN President, Dan Suarez; several past Presidents, the honorees, their families, NAHN members attending the conference and representatives of other NAHN supporters.

The reception was sponsored by Pfizer RxPathways. NAHN appreciates Pfizer RxPathways continued support of this event as it demonstrates Pfizer’s commitment to supporting the development of Hispanic nursing professionals and improvements in Hispanic healthcare.
NAHN Announces Call for Editor-In-Chief of NAHN’s Hispanic Health Care International Journal (HHCI)
Deadline is March 5, 2016

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) is excited to notify you that as of January 1, 2016, NAHN will have a new publisher for its Hispanic Health Care International (HHCI) Journal. The NAHN Board of Directors is excited to partner with Sage Publishing to bring the Journal to new heights.

We want to recognize the outstanding work that our current Editors-in-Chief Nilda (Nena) Peragallo, DrPH, RN, FAAN and Elias Provencio-Vásquez, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAANP; our Managing Editor Katherine Maidenberg, MPA, BA and our Associate Editor for Clinical Practice Margaret Avila, PhD, MSN, RN/NP, PHN have carried out for many years. It is thanks to their dedication and hard work, as well as the contributions of the Editorial Board, that NAHN has been able to continue to offer top-notch articles on Hispanic Health.

Drs. Peragallo and Provencio-Vásquez have indicated that they would like to take a very well deserved break, so NAHN is seeking applicants for the position of Editor-in-Chief of HHCI for a three-year term with possible reappointment. An editorial stipend is provided.

Until the selection of the new Editor-in-Chief, Judith Apon- te, PhD, RN, CDE, CCM, APHN-BC has been appointed by the NAHN Board as the Interim Editor-in-Chief.

HHCI is a bimonthly peer-reviewed publication that provides a multidisciplinary forum for advancing research, clinical practice, education and policy on healthcare among Hispanic/Latino populations in North America and throughout the world. Features include original research reports, research and translation reviews, evidence-based case reports, and opinion / advocacy perspectives.

HHCI publishes reports reflecting qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies on the broad range of topics encountered by Hispanic nurses and those conducting research in Hispanic health. In doing so, HHCI’s mission is to support the strategic goals of NAHN.

Please visit http://tinyurl.com/jxv99gh to read more about qualifications and about how to submit. We hope you will join us!

Be Counted: 10,000 Nurses on Boards by 2020

NAHN is a member of the Nurses on Boards Coalition, a coalition of major nursing association. The goal of the Coalition is to improve the health of our communities by getting 10,000 nurses on boards by 2020. As we announced previously, NAHN President Dan Suarez, RN, MA was distinguished by being appointed as the Co-Chair of the Coalition.

After months of work, the Coalition is excited to announce the launch of a website, where NAHN members and other Coalition members will be able to sign up to volunteer to serve on both non-profit and for-profit Boards.

Revisit 2015 NAHN Webinars

NAHN has been fortunate to host many wonderful presenters during its webinars this year. We encourage you to check them out if you were unable to attend. Below are links to the most recent ones.

- Dec. 10, 2015 - SAMHSA’s Mobile Mental Health Resources for Patient Care (http://www.nahnnet.org/2015-12-10_SAMHSA_Mobile_Mental_Health_Resources.mp4)
- Oct. 28, 2015 - “JTTRATCOY” – Stress and Compassion Fatigue (http://www.nahnnet.org/2015-10-28_Stress_Compassion_Fatigue.mp4)
- Sept. 22, 2015 - Integrating Mental Health Into Your Work With Patients (http://www.nahnnet.org/2015-09-22_Integrating_Mental_Health.mp4)

Additional webinars are available at http://www.nahnnet.org/NAHNWebinars.html.
Save the Date: NAHN’s 2016 Conference
July 12-15, 2016

In 2016, NAHN is headed to Chicago! Our 41st Annual Conference will deliver a high caliber of professional and clinical content, gathering together healthcare professionals of many different ethnic backgrounds that are leaders in improving health care for the Latino population.

Click here to learn how to reserve your accommodations now; more details coming soon!

The $71 Million Word in Healthcare

What does the word, “intoxicado” mean in Spanish? The misunderstanding of this single term resulted in a $71 million malpractice settlement for a likely avoidable case of quadriplegia due to untreated brain aneurysm. Read more about this sobering case of language barriers here.

Make sure you have the medical Spanish skills to work competently and compassionately with your Spanish-speaking patients to prevent miscommunication errors big and small.

As a NAHN member, you have a discount for Canopy’s Medical Spanish Training Course, developed with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Access your discount here.

Keep Your NAHN Record Up to Date

NAHN members can now directly access their membership database record so they can update the information whenever needed. It is very easy and you can do it NOW!

• Go to http://ow.ly/qwIw8. We have also added a link to the database under the “Communicate” section at the NAHN home page, http://www.nahnnet.org. Look for Members Login.
• Click Login in the left-hand side menu.
• Enter your username as the primary e-mail NAHN uses to communicate with you. Please contact NAHN headquarters if you need help.
• Enter the password: Password1. (The first time you login, it will force you to change your password.)
• Enter the old password as Password1, then enter twice your new password. If you forget it later, you can always take advantage of the Forgot Password? link.
• After doing so, you will be directed to My Information. Click Edit Information to update your record.
• Please make sure to update the demographics labeled at the bottom of the form, including: practice, specialty, work place and type of position.

Why We Need More Information

Having accurate member information helps NAHN to deliver more relevant and timely information to our membership.

We get occasional calls looking for members to be interviewed regarding particular subjects. Knowing your area of expertise will allow us to identify the appropriate member.

We also are invited to nominate members to outside committees and councils. Being able to identify members that would qualify for those appointments facilitates NAHN’s participation in these groups.

Additionally, we need the information to better describe who our members are to potential supporters.

NAHN Job Board

New, Improved!

Did you know that NAHN’s Career Headquarters has some wonderful job openings in many different positions around the U.S.?

If you or someone you know is looking for a new opportunity, don’t forget to check out the new NAHN Career Center, http://careers.nahnnet.org/.

The new Career Center now includes the option for our members to upload a resume where potential employers can review. The resumes can be posted privately for the use of the poster, anonymous, so potential employers can look but with identifying information removed, or publicly so everyone can look at it.

If you are looking for a job, please support our Center. Also, let your peers know about the new, improved NAHN Career Center.

Encourage your employer to post job openings on the NAHN Career Headquarters page! Contact Lindsay Harp at sales@thehispanicnurses.org for more information.

Let’s Get Social

We want to invite our members to “get social” and join the NAHN Social Media sites. Become a fan of the NAHN Facebook page and follow our tweets on our Twitter page.

Click on the links below and join us now!

• NAHN Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/nahnnursing/
• NAHN Twitter Page: @nahnnursing or www.twitter.com/nahnnursing
• NAHN LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/National-Association-Hispanic-Nurses-2358996/about

We have also now added additional social sites, including:

• NAHN Instagram Site: https://www.instagram.com/nahnnursing/
• NAHN Pinterest Site: https://www.pinterest.com/nahnnursing/
• NAHN Flickr Site: www.flickr.com/photos/101014955@N03/
News from Our Corporate Members

Excelsior College

Excelsior College, National Association for Hispanic Nurses Renew Educational Partnership

The National Association for Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) and Excelsior College on November 24 announced a renewal of their academic partnership. Excelsior College is home to the largest nursing school in the nation and a recognized Center of Excellence in Nursing Education.

Under this agreement, association members and their spouses or domestic partners are eligible for reduced tuition and fees for bachelor degree programs in the School of Nursing, as well as undergraduate degree programs in Liberal Arts, Health Sciences, Public Service and Business and Technology.

"By renewing our corporate membership with the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Excelsior College can continue to support NAHN’s commitment to providing equal access to education, professional, and economic opportunities for Hispanic nurses. Likewise, the long-standing educational partnership between NAHN and Excelsior reduces financial barriers for both NAHN members and their spouses that choose to enroll in an Excelsior degree program," said Chris Normile, healthcare partnership manager at Excelsior College. "The College’s School of Nursing is proud to offer accredited online associate, bachelor, and master degree nursing programs that produce graduates who positively influence nursing care and patient outcomes.”

Excelsior College is an accredited, nonprofit college that specializes in serving the needs of working adults. It provides flexible means for its students – average age of 37 – to earn their degrees through the use of a combination of prior earned credit, Excelsior’s online courses and credit-by-exam program, and evaluated industry and military training programs. In fact, Excelsior College’s largest academic program is the associate degree program in nursing and houses over 19,000 students.

Admission to Excelsior’s associate degree program in nursing is open to individuals with existing health care experience such as licensed practical nurses, paramedics, and certain classifications of military corpsmen seeking to become a registered nurse. The bachelor’s degree program serves the needs of registered nurses seeking the next level of academic and professional achievement. The School of Nursing also offers a master’s degree program with specializations in Clinical Systems Management, Nursing Informatics, and Nursing Education.

Excelsior’s nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), formerly known as the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). Following a rigorous peer review process, Excelsior was designated a 2011-2016 Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing, the third such recognition for the School of Nursing. Excelsior is also home to the Tau Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing. Excelsior has also been repeatedly named a “Best School” for men in nursing by the American Assembly for Men in Nursing.

Commenting on the agreement, Excelsior College’s School of Nursing dean, Dr. Mary Lee Pollard, said “As a national leader in nursing, the School of Nursing is pleased to be able to continue providing quality education to our students. Being able to foster valuable partnerships with organizations like NAHN is reassuring in that we are actively pursuing our mission of providing lifelong learning opportunities to adult students.”

For more information on the partnership, including benefits and available degrees, employees and media can visit the NAHN partnership page at www.nahn.excelsior.edu.

Excelsior College is a regionally accredited, nonprofit distance learning institution that focuses on removing obstacles to the educational goals of adult learners. Founded in 1971 and located in Albany, NY, Excelsior is a proven leader in the assessment and validation of student knowledge. It offers more efficient and affordable access to degree completion through multiple avenues: its own online courses and college-level proficiency examinations, and the acceptance in transfer of credit from other colleges and universities as well as recognized corporate and military training programs. Excelsior College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Discount for Partners on Associates Degree in Nursing!

Effective in January 2016, Excelsior College is expanding their partnership program to include the Associate Degree in Nursing. Previously, the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADn) was excluded from partnership pricing because it was exam, not course based.

Last year Excelsior rolled out their first ADn courses and is now expanding partnership discounts to students in the ADn program. Beginning with Excelsior’s Spring I term, partnership students enrolled in the ADn program will receive the 20% partnership discount on online course credits as well as other partnership benefits. This includes currently enrolled students as well as those enrolling in the future. As with other partnership students, those in the ADn program must take twelve online course credits to qualify for the discounts on tuition and fees, with six course credits taken each year.

Excelsior’s School of Nursing is recognized as a leader in Nursing Education and has been designated as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing. The ADn program is designed to provide a pathway to a nursing degree for LPNs, LVNs, paramedics and military corpsman. As a military and veteran friendly institution, Excelsior recognizes experience from medical corpsman who apply within one year of their discharge date. The ADn program will still require students to take a certain number of credits via assessment. Students should work with their advisor to ensure the best path to completion.

For those interested in learning more, please visit: www.excelsior.edu/associate-degree-nursing.
Editorial: Reflecting on year one of ‘Mission Transition’

veterans in nursing grant initiative

by Sarah Van Vorst, program manager for VBSN in the School of Nursing at Excelsior College

Excelsior College has just celebrated the completion of its first year of a three-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to assist qualified military veterans earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing. This grant initiative called Mission Transition has the goal of enriching the current bachelor’s level nursing program by embracing the unique needs of veterans and offers student support in the way of a veteran to veteran mentor.

Mentorship is provided by Patricia Klimkewicz, PhD, RN who is Excelsior College nursing faculty as well as an active member of the Navy Reserves. As a fellow veteran she is able to relate to the multi-level challenges that our veterans and active military face while advancing their college degrees. Mission Transition is currently serving 94 veteran students enrolled in the bachelor’s degree in nursing program. The mentor is assisting them in assimilating from active duty to civilian student as well as aiding in their professional and educational development.

These veteran students will also benefit from having their own academic advisors, both in the School of Nursing and Center for Military Education. This is to provide a consistent resource for the many questions that arise concerning benefits and academic progression. For those that are graduating, there are numerous resources available through the college’s Career Center which offers such services as cover letter and resume critique and EC Joblinks.

Another goal of Mission Transition is to enhance the existing curriculum which will benefit both students and faculty. These course changes will better integrate not only veteran experiences but all student experiences. The result will foster personal reflection and academic growth.

Lastly, under this project Excelsior College’s instructional faculty are encouraged to enroll in FAC 120 which is a course that explores military culture and veteran challenges. This course is offered to all faculty so they can familiarize themselves with the college resources that are available to the military and veteran student and how to better support them while progressing through their courses.

To find out more information about the Mission Transition project and the bachelor’s degree in nursing, visit our webpage: http://www.excelsior.edu/programs/nursing/bachelors/vbsn-supporting-veterans-pursuing-your-rn-to-bs-in-nursing

Pfizer Rx Pathways®

Partnering with the Hispanic Community

Pfizer’s work in the Hispanic community has helped thousands of patients get much-needed medicines through their partnerships with leading Latino organizations. One of these groups, the Hispanic Federation, recently honored Pfizer with its Corporate Leadership Award for their collaboration and efforts to help improve access to healthcare for Hispanics, specifically through their patient assistance program, Pfizer RxPathways®.

Upon receiving the award, Angelica Wong, who leads the Pfizer Latino Colleague Resource Group in New York City, explained, “We’re dedicated to addressing the healthcare disparities that affect Latino communities, and our partnerships with trusted community-based organizations such as the Hispanic Federation are key to these efforts.”

NAHN has also worked closely with Pfizer to help promote Pfizer RxPathways in the Latino community. We salute our partner for this recognition.

Thank You To Our Corporate Members!

NAHN would like to give a special thanks to all of our Corporate Members (as of 12/15/2015), listed below. Thank you for all of your support!

• Abbvie
• Astra Zeneca
• Cancer Treatment Centers of America
• Center for Nursing Advancement, UnitedHealth Group
• Children’s Mercy Hospital and Clinics
• Cord Blood Registry®
• Eli Lilly
• Excelsior College
• Pfizer RxPathways
• Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
• The Coca-Cola Company
• Transitions Optical
• University of Phoenix
• Walden University

Health Policy & Legislative Affairs

Delivery System Incentive Payment (DSRIP)

by Dr. Mirian Zavala, DNS, RN

The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) was originally developed in California to reform the state health delivery system. The MRT Waiver Amendment will allow states over five years to reinvest federal dollars savings generated by Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT). The DSRIP program improves quality healthcare in the safety net health care system.

The outcome is accomplished by providing better care to the healthcare consumers, the community and by reducing the cost of providing healthcare. The focus on primary, preventive care and reduce avoidable hospitalization identified as preventable readmissions and preventable emergency room use by 25% over 5 years. The emphasis will shift from the volume of pa-
The proposed rule emphasizes the importance of the patient’s goals and preferences during the discharge planning process. These improvements should better prepare patients and their caregivers to be active partners for their anticipated health and community support needs upon discharge from the hospital or post-acute care setting. Hospitals and critical access hospitals would be required to consider several factors when evaluating a patient’s discharge needs, including but not limited to the availability of non-health care services and community-based providers that may be available to patients post-discharge.

In addition, patients and their caregivers would be better prepared to select a high quality post-acute care provider, since hospitals, critical access hospitals, and home health agencies would be required to use and share data, including data on quality and resource use measures. This results in the meaningful involvement of patients and their caregivers in the discharge planning process.

For more information, please visit: https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2015-27840.pdf. This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 11/03/2015 and available online at http://federalregister.gov/a/2015-27840. There is a 60 day comment period on the proposed rule.

### CDC Releases 2015 HIV Vital Signs

On November 24, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its 2015 HIV Vital Signs focusing on preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP). This Vital Signs includes:

Two Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR), one from CDC and one from New York State Department of Health:

- **Vital Signs: Estimated Percentages and Numbers of Adults with Indications for Preexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent HIV Acquisition — United States, 2015**

HCV patients identified advanced fibrosis or cirrhosis in 50 (33.8%), with higher adjusted odds ratios of 3.21 for Hispanics versus non-Hispanic whites/Asians (P < 0.02) and 1.18 per year of age (P < 0.001). Other factors associated with significantly higher adjusted odds ratios of advanced fibrosis or cirrhosis were alcohol abuse/dependence, obesity, and being uninsured.

Conclusion: In this low-income, hospitalized cohort, 4% of 4582 screened baby boomers were diagnosed with chronic HCV, nearly twice the rate in the community; one-third had noninvasive testing that indicated advanced fibrosis or cirrhosis, which was significantly more likely for Hispanics, those of older age, those with obesity, those with alcohol abuse/dependence, and those who lacked insurance.

For full article, click here.

**Free Digital Resources from SAMHSA**

**Help Providers Enhance Behavioral Health Support for Patients**

Behavioral health is essential to overall health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is dedicated to providing you with the latest resources to ensure you are best equipped to support your patients’ behavioral health needs. We create innovative digital resources to provide on-the-go access to resources that can help address a broad spectrum of topics and situations you might encounter in your day-to-day work.

One of the first mobile-friendly tools SAMHSA designed was the Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator, an online resource for persons in the United States or U.S. Territories who are seeking treatment facilities for mental and substance use disorders. The locator is designed to work on all devices, including mobile devices. Providers can search the locator by state or ZIP code and select services in their area. Providers can also share this information via e-mail or print the information to reference later or give to a patient. The Treatment Locator is available at findtreatment.samhsa.gov.

SAMHSA also has a suite of mobile apps that combine key resources and convenient functionality to address behavioral health concerns. The Suicide Safe app helps health care providers integrate suicide prevention strategies into their work and address suicide risk among patients. Nearly half of individuals who die by suicide have visited a primary care provider in the month
prior to their death. Medical settings provide unique opportunities for those at risk of suicide to connect with the health care system and access effective treatment.

The SAMHSA Behavioral Health Disaster Response App helps responders to prepare for deployment, assist survivors in the aftermath of a disaster or traumatic event, and care for themselves and colleagues as they transition back home. Users can share resources, such as tips for helping survivors cope with stress, and can find local behavioral health services.

SAMHSA's KnowBullying app helps parents and caregivers build the foundation for a strong relationship and help prevent bullying by engaging in brief conversations with their children—research indicates as little as 15 minutes a day can be beneficial—to support an open dialogue. KnowBullying also includes information about warning signs that a child is affected by bullying, simple conversation starters, and friendly reminders to start a dialogue.

To download these free apps, visit SAMHSA’s one-stop app shop at store.samhsa.gov/apps. For more information about our resources and mobile technologies, watch the NAHN webinar, “SAMHSA’s Mobile Mental Health Resources for Patient Care.”

We are delighted to share with you this photo of the participants of the 2015-2016 NAHN ACA PICC Grant. These hard-working NAHN members will dedicate many hours of their free time this year to educate the community on the Affordable Care Act and provide health insurance literacy education, under the direction of the Grant P. I. Adriana Perez, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN (second left, front row), with the assistance of Celia Besore, MBA, CAE, Grant Administrator (third left, front row) and Tamara Hoehn, Grant Coordinator (eighth left, front row).

The Chapters involved in this grant are Angeles del Desierto (Yuma), Illinois, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Eastern Pennsylvania, Orange County, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Diego, Southern Colorado and Westchester County.

We conducted a training session at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing on Saturday, November 14th. In the center of the photo is one of NAHN’s past presidents, Antonia Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN (sixth left, front row), who is the new dean of the School of Nursing.

We want to also thank our sponsors, AARP and the Center to Champion Nursing in America (fifth left, front row Winifred V. Quinn, PhD, Director, Advocacy & Consumer Affairs) and Accolade.

In addition to Dr. Quinn, we were honored to have Melissa A. Herd, Executive Officer, Office of the Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Region III – DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV (fourth left, front row), Jose L. Plaza, M.S., National Director Latino Engagement, Enroll America and Cristina Calvillo-Rivera, M.A., Campaign Outreach Manager, Young Invincibles as a guest speakers.