Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow, a coalition of 43 leading nursing and health care organizations addressing the nursing shortage, is launching a national advertising campaign titled “Nursing education … pass it on.”

The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of nurse educators – a shortage of which is causing some nursing schools to turn away prospective students.

“We're in the middle of a nursing shortage in this country,” explains Ada Sue Hinshaw, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean and professor, University of Michigan School of Nursing. “We cannot afford to have colleges and universities deny nurse education to students who want to enter the profession simply because we don’t have enough teachers.”

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), a Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow member, U.S. nursing schools turned away more than 11,000 qualified applicants in 2003. This is significantly up from the more than 5,000 students turned away in 2002. Almost 65 percent of the reporting nursing schools cited faculty shortages as the reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into entry-level baccalaureate programs.

Based on preliminary reports from the National League of Nursing’s (NLN) 2003 Annual Survey of Schools of Nursing, NLN projects that there will be more than 30,000 qualified applicants not accepted and placed on a waiting list for all three basic RN education programs (diploma, associate degree and baccalaureate). NLN is a Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow member.

Those shortages are expected to worsen in the coming years because more nurse faculty will be retiring, academic compensation is not keeping pace with pay in the business sector and fewer nurses are graduating with the advanced degrees needed to teach.

To combat this problem, the new faculty recruitment ads convey the personal satisfaction and rewards nurse educators receive. They do this through first-person testimonials. They also direct audiences to the coalition’s Web site – www.nurseSource.org – where visitors can learn more about nurse education careers.

“The nursing community has always risen to challenges facing the profession and health care. It is essential that nursing service and nursing education co-create innovative programs to assure the availability of a qualified nursing workforce today and in the future. It is our moral and professional obligation to the public and profession.”

— Linda Burns Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles

Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow launches campaign to increase number of nurse educators

Funding through this program will be dispensed by schools of nursing to students pursuing a faculty career.

In the fall of 2001, the Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow coalition launched a national advertising campaign to address the nursing shortage. Titled “Nursing. It’s Real. It’s Life.,” the goal of the ads was to boost the attractiveness of nursing as a profession.

According to a 2002 report issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, if current trends in nursing-care supply and demand continue, the nursing shortage will reach 20 percent within the next 12 years, and 29 percent by 2020.

Major sponsors of the Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow faculty recruitment campaign include Platinum sponsor Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Gold sponsor JWT Specialized Communications, NurseWeek, Nursing Spectrum, Marsh Affinity Group Services and the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation.
The Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow advertising campaign, “Nursing education … pass it on,” features messages aimed at nurses and nursing students who may consider a career in nursing education. Four nurse educators were chosen for the campaign, and through first-person testimonials, they demonstrate the professionalism and passion necessary to educate America’s future nurses.

The following nurses are featured in the campaign:

**Joanne Pohl, PhD, RN, ANP, FAAN** – Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Community Partnerships at the University of Michigan School of Nursing in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Randolph Rasch, PhD, RN, FNP** – Professor and Program Director in the Family Nurse Practitioner Speciality at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in Nashville, Tenn.

**Carol Toussie Weingarten, PhD, RN** – Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

**Debi Vendittelli, MSN, RN** – Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Mich.

The following nurses have been teaching for more than 25 years. She has research, teaching and practice responsibilities, including overseeing two academic nurse-managed centers and school-based clinics in Ann Arbor.

“The nursing education today is a stimulating and fulfilling way to prepare and influence health care providers for tomorrow,” Pohl said. “I value the variety of roles in nursing education. I am able to combine the best of the worlds of nursing and teaching helps my clinical work,” Vendittelli said. Even as a full-time educator, she remains involved clinically, dividing her time between the Villanova campus and the surrounding Philadelphia area.

Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow is a global publishing company, which has become a Platinum sponsor of the campaign. LWW will provide the coalition with an in-kind sponsorship valued at $1 million, including:

- Placement of NHT faculty recruitment ads in top LWW nursing journals to total $100,000.
- High-visibility placement of Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow’s logo with high-visibility on LWW direct mail pieces.
- Printing and distribution of NHT’s faculty recruitment poster through LWW’s American Nursing Student newsletter, which is distributed four times per year in accordance with the academic calendar.
- Publishing Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow campaign news and updates via www.nursesource.org and various journals’ electronic newsletters.

Bronze sponsors Nursing Spectrum and Nursing2004 magazines will run the print ads in their publications as they have in the past. Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow member organizations also are asked to run the print ads in their publications.

The four print ads can be viewed on the coalition’s Web site (www.nursesource.org), along with a request to copy the ads.
Nursing faculty shortage facts and factors

In a time when more nurses are desperately needed, it’s disheartening that many qualified nursing school applicants are being turned away. Much of this is attributed to the nursing faculty shortage. Here’s some background information about the nurse educator shortage:

- Nursing schools turned away more than 11,000 qualified applicants across the United States in 2003 due to insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites and class room space, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (AACN) report on 2003-2004 Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing. Almost two-thirds (64.8 percent) of the nursing schools responding to the 2003 survey pointed to faculty shortages as a reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into entry-level baccalaureate programs. (www.aacn.nche.edu)

- According to a Special Survey on Vacant Faculty Positions released by AACN in June 2003, 614 faculty vacancies were identified at 300 nursing schools across the country. The data show a nurse faculty vacancy rate of 8.6 percent, which is an increase from the 7.4 percent vacancy rate reported in 2000. Most of the vacancies (59.8 percent) were faculty positions requiring a doctoral degree. Many factors are contributing to the faculty shortage: faculty age, inadequate compensation and lack of master’s and doctoral programs in nursing.

- Faculty age continues to climb, narrowing the number of productive years nurse educators can teach. According to AACN’s report on 2002-2003 Salaries of Instructional and Administrative Nursing Faculty in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing, the median age of nurse faculty is 51.2 years. The average ages of doctoral-prepared nurse faculty holding the ranks of professor, associate professor and assistant professor were 56.6, 54.2, and 50.5 years, respectively. The average age for all faculty ranks prepared at the master’s degree level is 48.8 years.

- Also, a wave of faculty retirements is expected across the United States over the next decade. According to a March/April 2002 Nursing Outlook article, “The Shortage of Doctorally Prepared Nursing Faculty: A Dire Situation,” the average retirement age for nurse faculty is 62.5. The authors project that between 200 and 300 doctoral-prepared faculty will be eligible for retirement each year from 2003 through 2012, and between 220 and 280 master’s-prepared nurse faculty will be eligible for retirement between 2012 and 2018.

- Higher compensation in clinical and private-sector settings is luring current and potential nurse educators away from teaching. The average salary of a master’s-prepared nurse practitioner working in an emergency department was $80,697, according to the 2003 National Salary Survey of Nurse Practitioners completed by ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners magazine. In contrast, AACN reports that master’s-prepared nurse faculty across all ranks earned an annual average salary of $60,831. (http://www.advancefornp.com/common/editorial/editorial.aspx?CC=27756) and (www.aacn.nche.edu)

- Master’s and doctoral programs in nursing are not producing a large enough pool of potential nurse educators to meet the demand. According to AACN’s 2003-2004 Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing, graduations from master’s programs decreased by 9.9 percent or 251 graduates; graduations from doctoral programs decreased by 9.9 percent or 44 graduates. (www.aacn.nche.edu)

- According to a study released by the Southern Regional Board of Education (SREB) in February 2002, a serious shortage of nurse faculty was documented in all 16 SREB states and the District of Columbia. Survey findings show that the combination of faculty vacancies (432) and newly budgeted positions (350) points to a 12-percent shortfall in the number of nurse educators needed. Unfilled faculty positions, resignations, projected retirements and the shortage of students being prepared for the faculty role pose a threat to the nursing education workforce over the next five years. (www.sreb.org)

- "The need for faculty in basic nursing education to find reward and fulfillment by being with students in emerging environments of care is the most pressing challenge facing nursing education today. A corollary and related challenge is the need for nurses with advanced practice degrees to discover the excitement and fulfillment that comes from being a nursing faculty member working in undergraduate nursing education. Together these two challenges, if met, will reveal a shared purpose for nursing: working together to improve the health status of Americans.”

— M. Elaine Tagliareni, EdD, RN, Professor and Independence Foundation Chair, Department of Nursing, Community College of Philadelphia
The nation’s hospitals not only are the places that employ the most nurses, they are the places where critical clinical education takes place. Hundreds of hospitals are working with their local colleges and universities, not only to attract more students, but to find and fund faculty. But more needs to be done and we’re urging hospitals that have the resources to help underwrite faculty costs and to encourage qualified nurses to become educators and leave a legacy of caring.

— Dick Davidson, President, American Hospital Association

Nurses top list of most ethical professions

Nurses once again ranked the highest in the annual CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll in which Americans rated the honesty and ethical standards of people in various professions. Nurses topped the ranking of 23 professions in the November 2003 poll, with 83 percent of respondents rating them “very high” or “high” for honesty and ethics. This is up from 79 percent in 2002.

Medical doctors (68 percent), veterinarians (68 percent), pharmacists (67 percent) and dentists (61 percent) rounded out the top five highest rated professionals.

Nurses have ranked the highest in four of the five years that the profession has been included in the poll. Nurses came in second to firefighters in 2001 in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins becomes Platinum sponsor of coalition

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW) has become a Platinum Sponsor of Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow. LWW is a leading international publisher of professional health information for nurses, physicians, specialized clinicians and students. LWW provides essential information for health care professionals in print and electronic formats, including text books, journals, CD-ROM, PDA and via intranets and the Internet.

“I support this important campaign to increase the number of nurse educators.”

— Joan O’Sullivan, Managing Director at Marsh

Marsh makes donation to campaign

Marsh Affinity Group Services, a nationwide administrator of insurance plans for health care professionals, recently contributed $10,000 to Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow. This was the third installment of a $30,000 donation from the coalition’s Nurse’s Circle sponsor.

“The nursing community is important to us, and we have been involved with it for more than 50 years,” said Joan O’Sullivan, managing director at Marsh. “The nursing shortage is a problem that must be addressed, and we believe that Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow has made a difference and will continue to do so. We’re proud to offer our support and partner with them to solve this immediate need in health care.”

Initiatives help fund nursing education scholarships

The Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing’s Future has hosted gala fund-raising events designed to celebrate nursing excellence and raise money for student scholarships, nurse educator fellowships and nursing school grants. The Promise of Nursing events have been held in northern California, Dallas/Fort Worth, south Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and Tennessee. More than $5 million has been raised to date and more events are planned.

The NLN Foundation for Nursing Education, an affiliate of National League for Nursing (NLN), awarded scholarships in the fall of 2003 to 25 nursing students who will pursue careers as nurse educators. The Promise of Nursing Regional Faculty Scholarship Program, which is supported by the fund-raising events sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, is administered by the Foundation of the National Student Nurses’ Association. Both the National League of Nursing and the National Student Nurses’ Association are Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow members.

Applications are being accepted for the 2004-2005 scholarship program cycle. For more information on the Campaign for Nursing’s Future, visit www.discovernursing.com. For more information on the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing’s Future, visit www nursingscholarship.org.

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  •  American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  •  American Academy of Nursing  •  American Association of Colleges of Nursing  •  American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  •  American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  •  American Association of Nurse Administrators  •  American College of Nurse Practitioners  •  American Hospital Association  •  American Nephrology Nurses’ Association  •  American Nurses Association  •  American Organization of Nurse Executives  •  American Psychiatric Nurses Association  •  American Public Health Association  •  American Red Cross  •  American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  •  Ambitions Foundation  •  Association of Academic Health Centers  •  Association of American Medical Colleges  •  Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses  •  Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  •  Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  •  Center for Nursing Advocacy  •  Chi Eta Phi Sorority  •  Emergency Nurses Association  •  Health Occupations Students of America  •  Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International  •  Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  •  International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  •  National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  •  National Association of Neonatal Nurses  •  National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses  •  National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  •  National Association of School Nurses  •  National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations  •  National League for Nursing  •  National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  •  National Student Nurses’ Association  •  Nurse Practitioner National Marketing Campaign  •  Oncology Nursing Society  •  Society of Oncohematology and Blood-Related Pharmacy Nurses  •  Society of Pediatric Nurses  •  Society of Trauma Nurses  •  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  •  Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  •  American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  •  American Academy of Nursing  •  American Association of Colleges of Nursing  •  American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  •  American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  •  American Association of Nurse Administrators  •  American College of Nurse Practitioners  •  American Hospital Association  •  American Nephrology Nurses’ Association  •  American Nurses Association  •  American Organization of Nurse Executives  •  American Psychiatric Nurses Association  •  American Public Health Association  •  American Red Cross  •  American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  •  Ambitions Foundation  •  Association of Academic Health Centers  •  Association of American Medical Colleges  •  Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses  •  Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  •  Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  •  Center for Nursing Advocacy  •  Chi Eta Phi Sorority  •  Emergency Nurses Association  •  Health Occupations Students of America  •  Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International  •  Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  •  International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  •  National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  •  National Association of Neonatal Nurses  •  National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses  •  National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  •  National Association of School Nurses  •  National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations  •  National League for Nursing  •  National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  •  National Student Nurses’ Association  •  Nurse Practitioner National Marketing Campaign  •  Oncology Nursing Society  •  Society of Oncohematology and Blood-Related Pharmacy Nurses  •  Society of Pediatric Nurses  •  Society of Trauma Nurses  •  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Enrollments in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by 16.6 percent in fall 2003 over 2002, according to a survey from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), a Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow member organization. However, more than 11,000 qualified students were turned away from these programs due to limited faculty, clinical sites and classroom space. AACN surveyed 564 (82.7 percent) of the nation’s nursing schools with baccalaureate- and graduate-degree programs. It found that 126,954 students were enrolled in all nursing programs leading to the baccalaureate degree in fall 2003, up from 116,099 students at the same time in 2002. This marks the third year of enrollment increases in baccalaureate programs, which had declined steadily from 1995 to 2000.

Graduate enrollments and nurse faculty shortage

The AACN survey also found that enrollments were up in both master’s and doctoral degree nursing programs. Enrollments in master’s degree programs rose 10.2 percent, or 3,350 students, to a total of 37,251 students. In doctoral programs, enrollments increased by 5.6 percent, or 171 students, to a total of 3,229 students. However, because of lower enrollments in recent years, the number of graduates from master’s and doctoral programs in 2003 declined by 2.5 percent and 9.9 percent, respectively.

The slight enrollment increase in graduate programs is good news given the growing concern about the nurse faculty shortage. According to AACN, the shortage of nurse educators is expected to intensify over the next 20 years as significant numbers of faculty members retire and fewer nurses with advanced educational preparation choose academic careers. AACN projects that between 200 and 300 faculty with doctoral degrees will be eligible for retirement each year from 2003 through 2012, and between 220 and 280 faculty with master’s degrees will be able to retire annually between 2012 and 2018. Given the competition for nurses prepared at advanced levels and the salary differential between positions in higher education and private practice, the nurse faculty shortage is expected to intensify and affect nursing education programs at all levels.

About the AACN Survey

AACN’s 23rd Annual Survey of Institutions with Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Programs is conducted each year by the association’s Research Center. More information about the survey results can be found at AACN’s Web site at www.aacn.nche.edu.

Thousands of students turned away from nursing schools despite increase in enrollment

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How to Help

You can help Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow make a difference in the nursing recruitment communications campaign. With the support of individual, corporate and organizational donors, Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow is letting people know that many rewards await those who seek a career in nursing.

There are many ways you can get involved with Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow. Here are two things that will help most:

Contribute money. We need dollars to create, produce and place advertising, and to fund public relations efforts. From individuals to corporations to foundations, we’ll only succeed if we work together. No contribution is too small, and you can make a contribution in honor of a person, institution or organization.

Get the word out. Tell others about the campaign. And tell them to tell others. Help to place campaign ads in publications that potential nurses and nurse educators read.

For your contribution, you’ll be listed on Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow’s Web site – www.nursesource.org – and in the coalition’s printed publications. For contributions of $1,000 or more, you can get a link from the coalition’s Web site to yours.

To make a contribution or get more information you can:

• Contribute online at www.nursesource.org
• Mail your contribution to: Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow c/o Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International 550 W. North St. Indianapolis, IN 46202
• Call, write or e-mail us about sponsorship opportunities: Kathy Bennett, 888.634.7575, bennison@stti.iupui.edu Sonja Popp-Stahly, 317.262.8080, sonja@hetcom.com

The importance of quality nursing instructors cannot be overestimated. As a recent graduate, I rely on what I learned in school. Our instructors teach us how to think critically and apply the knowledge gained. My success as a nurse is directly influenced by the quality and effort of my instructors.

— Matthew Arant, RN, ASN, President, National Student Nurses’ Association

Nothing compares to working closely with students who are eager to learn. Joanne Pohl, PhD, RN, ANP, FAAN Nurse Educator
"Teaching students who want to be nurses is an honor."

Debi Vendittelli, MSN, RN
Nurse Educator

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NFCS Associates Services, LLC
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Nursing Administration Quarterly
Nursing Executive Council, San Fernando Valley
Nursing Management
Nursing Research
Pampa Community General Hospital
Pampa Community General Hospital, Nursing Administration
Patricia Boyle
Pinnacle Health System
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Sacred Heart Medical Center
San Juan Regional Medical Center
Sibley Memorial Hospital
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St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation
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West Suburban Hospital Medical Center, Oak Park (Ill.)
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Zeta Delta Chapter-At-Large (STTI)