2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association’s 2016 Annual Conference will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA on October 19-21. Readers of the ASAHP UPDATE are requested to mark their calendars and plan on attending this important event. Apart from an Awards Dinner, opportunities to engage in networking and a Town Meeting to discuss key issues, the event will feature several plenary session presentations, along with a series of presentations both in concurrent sessions and at a poster session.

Rooming rates for this year’s 2016 Annual Conference will start at $209 per night. Attendees may book within the room block through Monday, September 26, 2016. The special room rate will be available until the group block is sold-out. Booking information and other details about the conference, including a list of presenters at plenary sessions can be accessed at http://www.event.com/events/2016-asahp-annual-conference/event-summary-5c505444a1b44186bbe592e3eb4a6bce.aspx.

Please indicate that you are with the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions to identify yourself as part of the room block. You can do so by using Group Code: 1016ASAHP.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

Data collection for the 2016 study opened on September 12 and is scheduled to close on November 30. Deans and directors are requested to identify an individual on each campus who will be assigned the responsibility of collecting and submitting data. A highly informative User’s Guide is online at www.asahp.org in the section of the homepage labeled “Members.” This resource has proved to be immensely valuable for newcomers to the study.

Last year, there were 85 participants in the survey and a major objective this year is to exceed that number. Salary data, along with student application and enrollment data are important features. The survey consistently is viewed by institutional members as an exceptionally valuable benefit of belonging to ASAHP.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) is soliciting resource grant applications for projects that will bring useful, usable health information to health disparity populations and the health care providers who care for those populations. Proposed projects should exploit the capabilities of computer and information technology and health sciences libraries to bring health-related information to consumers and their health care providers.

Preference will be given to applications that show strong involvement of health science libraries. Because this funding opportunity announcement focuses on providing health information to health disparity populations, institutions with demonstrated commitment to the needs of health disparity communities (including Tribal Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other institutions in rural and socially disadvantaged areas) are encouraged to apply.

Applicants may request up to $100,000 per year in direct costs for 1-3 years. The amount requested need not be the same in each year for a multiple year project. This grant program does not cover facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, also called overhead or indirect costs. All applicants are required to submit a Research & Related (non-modular) Budget component. This one-time RFA has a single application deadline. Only electronic applications are accepted. The deadline for doing so is December 16, 2016 by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.


ASAHP ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots cast in the Association’s 2016 election recently were tabulated. An additional step is to notify the various candidates of the results. The next issue of the ASAHP UPDATE will contain the names of those who were elected.
ALLIED HEALTH WEEK

Allied Health Professions Week in 2016 will be celebrated on November 6-12 to honor educators and providers in the allied health professions. A wide variety of activities may be undertaken that week on campuses at ASAHP member institutions to highlight the allied health professions and achievements undertaken at the school. Examples are:

- Designate an “Allied Health Professional” or “Allied Health Student” to be honored each day of that week.
- Sponsor a luncheon to recognize honorees and invite allied health leaders/faculty from area institutions.
- Invite a guest speaker to celebrate contributions of the allied health workforce to health care. Host a breakfast or lunch with the college/university president or provost.
- Display Allied Health Professions posters throughout the institution.
- Furnish profiles of a variety of allied health professionals, educators, and students for the campus newspaper.
- Provide local media representatives with ideas for articles and opinion pieces about allied health.
- Set up a display table in a central location to distribute promotional literature, provide brief demonstrations, and highlight the various allied health professions.
- Invite high school guidance counselors to a luncheon on campus to discuss career opportunities in allied health.
- Invite a select group of local high school students to “shadow” allied health professionals for a few hours to obtain firsthand knowledge and experience.
- Provide students and faculty with allied health ribbons or buttons to wear.

Members are requested to inform ASAHP staff about events that occur during Allied Health Week. This information and any photos that are submitted will appear in one or more upcoming issues of the Association’s newsletter TRENDS.

POPULATION HEALTH RESOURCES

Increased emphasis is being placed on population health. Although students in health professions schools are educated and trained to treat patients effectively, their education is enhanced to the extent that they are given an opportunity to learn how population health has a strong influence on individual health status. While genetic codes have received considerable attention in recent years, ZIP codes play a significant role in determining health outcomes. Educators with an interest in the incorporation of community-related factors into the curriculum may obtain valuable information from the following online health and community indicators platforms:

- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a joint venture of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, examines more than 30 factors at the county level that influence health status. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
- Diversity Data makes it possible to create customized reports describing over 100 measures of diversity, opportunity, and quality of life for 362 metropolitan areas. http://www.diversitydata.org/
- Community Health Status Indicators Profiles include key indicators of health outcomes, which describe the population health status of a county and factors that have the potential to influence health outcomes, such as health care access and quality, health behaviors, social factors, and the physical environment. http://wwwn.cdc.gov/communityhealth
- America’s Health Rankings provides a study of the strengths, challenges, and overall rank of each state, based on key health measures. http://www.americashealthrankings.org/
- State Snapshots from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) furnish state-level data showing how all 50 states and the District of Columbia performed on more than 250 measures related to health care quality and access to care. http://www.ahrq.gov/research/data/state-snapshots/index.html
- Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index measures Americans' perceptions of their lives and their daily experiences through five interrelated elements that make up well-being: sense of purpose, social relationships, financial security, relationship to community, and physical health. http://www.well-beingindex.com/