2016 ASAHP SPRING MEETING

The ASAHP 2016 Spring Meeting will be held on March 17-18 at the Seelbach Hilton in Louisville, Kentucky. The theme for this event is “A View from the Corner Office: the Future for Allied Health Education, Practice, and Diversity.” Information about the: registration process, lodging, descriptions of plenary session speakers, and opportunities for exhibits/sponsors can be accessed at http://www.cvent.com/events/2016-asahp-spring-meeting/event-summary-d7ac5e1022a44d09b6a20a0d0365642.aspx.

Roaming rates begin at $155 per night. Rooms are reserved for March 14, 2016 - March 18, 2016. A special room rate was available until February 24th or until the group block was sold-out, whichever came first. Reservations can be made online at http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SDFSHP-ASAHP-20160316/index.jhtml or by telephone at 502-585-9206. Please use group code "ASAHP" to identify yourself as part of the room block.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

The Spring 2016 issue of the Journal of Allied Health will be at the printer’s company today and ready for distribution this month. An electronic version also will be posted on a website operated by the firm of Ingenta, which is based in England.

Because of a backlog, the Spring issue contains more articles than what usually is published. The Summer issue also will be larger. The Spring issue includes manuscripts on the following topics: Differences in Programmatic Resource Investments Result in Different Three-Year National Physical Therapy Examination Pass Rates; Effect of Physical Therapy Students’ Clinical Experiences on Clinician Productivity: An Evidence-Based Approach to Influencing Evidence-Based Practice in Allied Health; An Instrument to Observe Teamwork Behaviors; and The Frequency and Confidence of Health Care Practitioners in Encountering and Addressing Nutrition Related Issues.

2016 ASAHP ELECTION

Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 ASAHP Election. The following positions will be contested when the election opens on July 15:

Treasurer (two-year term)
Board of Directors (three-year term)
Nominations & Elections Committee (two-year term)

Members are reminded that in order to have votes counted, dues payments must be up-to-date. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2016. They can be directed to any of the following individuals who serve on the Nominations & Elections Committee:

Teri Stumbo, Chairperson (Des Moines University)
Tel: 515-271-1724
E-Mail: Teri.Stumbo@dmu.edu

Andrew Butler (Georgia State University)
Tel: 404-413-1415
E-Mail: andrewbutler@gsu.edu

Patricia Chute (New York Institute of Technology)
Tel: 516-686-3939
E-Mail: pchute@nyit.edu

Mitchell Cordova (Florida Gulf Coast University)
Tel: 239-590-7451
E-Mail: mcordova@fgcu.edu

Carolyn Giordano (Thomas Jefferson University)
Tel: 215-503-8811
E-Mail: Carolyn.giordano@jefferson.edu

Craig Jackson (Loma Linda University)
Tel: 909-558-4545
E-Mail: crjackson@llu.edu

Cesarina Thompson (American International College)
Tel: 413-205-3056
E-Mail: Cesarina.thompson@aic.edu
CREDENTIALS AND COMPETENCIES

Two white papers released by the American Council on Education (ACE) find that improving the higher education credentialing system and better communicating the value of competencies offer significant benefits to students and employers. The two interconnected projects address fundamental concerns regarding: (1) how employers value and assess students’ competencies, (2) the quality dimensions of connected credentials (transparency, modularity, portability, relevance, validity and equity) that meet the needs of diverse stakeholders, and (3) how educational institutions can improve their credentials and clearly articulate competencies.

The paper, *Quality Dimensions for Connected Credentials*, provides context for understanding the value of connected credentials. It is intended to help higher education decision-makers analyze the connectedness of credentials an institution already provides, those it is considering developing, and those to which it connects or plans to connect through articulation, transfer, credit for prior learning, career pathways, and education-to-employment bridges. It can be accessed at [http://www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Documents/Quality-Dimensions-for-Connected-Credentials.pdf](http://www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Documents/Quality-Dimensions-for-Connected-Credentials.pdf).

The paper, *Communicating the Value of Competencies*, provides context for understanding the value of competencies among higher education institutions, students, and employers, as well as structure for improving communication of this value. It is intended to help higher education decision-makers consider how they currently articulate competencies throughout their programs, in the definition of credentials, curricular structures, and students’ own evidence of learning. It can be accessed at [www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Documents/Communicating-the-Value-of-Competencies.pdf](www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Documents/Communicating-the-Value-of-Competencies.pdf).

HEALTH LITERACY TOOLKIT

Only 12 percent of U.S. adults have the health literacy skills needed to manage the demands of a complex health care system. Even these individuals’ ability to absorb and use health information can be compromised by stress or illness. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) developed a toolkit to help patients increase their understanding of health information and enhance their support. It can be accessed at [http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/quality-resources/tools/literacy-toolkit/index.html](http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/quality-resources/tools/literacy-toolkit/index.html).

HEALTH LABOR MARKET

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has launched a user-friendly web interactive to shed light on trends in the labor market for recent college graduates, including new data on unemployment, underemployment, labor demand, and wages. Users can compare the unemployment rate of recent college graduates, defined as 22 to 27 year olds with at least a bachelor’s degree, with other workers. Users also can monitor the underemployment rate for recent college graduates, i.e., the share working in jobs that typically do not require a college degree. The interactive includes data on differences in labor market outcomes, including wages, among 73 college majors.

Outcomes vary considerably by college major. For example, the *Unemployment Rate* is: Health Services (3.8%), Medical Technicians (6.7%), Nursing (2.0%), Nutrition Sciences (5.5%), and Pharmacy (4.1%). The *Underemployment Rate* is: Health Services (47.2%), Medical Technicians (59.6%), Nursing (13.4%), Nutrition Sciences (54.4%), and Pharmacy (20.3%). The *Median Wage Early Career* and *Median Wage Mid-Career* is: Health Services ($33K and $54K), Medical Technicians ($44K and $60K), Nursing ($48K and $65K), Nutrition Sciences ($36K and $50K), and Pharmacy ($42K and $110K).

*Graduates with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher: Health Services (53.0%), Medical Technicians (23.9%), Nursing (26.5%), Nutrition Sciences (42.7%), and Pharmacy (54.4%).* Much of the data on this new web interactive will be updated quarterly. The interactive can be accessed at [https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/college-labor-market/college-labor-market_compare-majors.html](https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/college-labor-market/college-labor-market_compare-majors.html).

MEASURING QUALITY

Rather than paying for health care on the basis of the volume of diagnostic and treatment interventions delivered, an increased emphasis is being placed on the quality of these procedures from the standpoint of how they contribute to enhanced patient health outcomes. Some thoughts along these lines are contained in an essay by Robert Berenson, a physician with significant amounts of experience serving in key positions in the federal government. He asserts that in most clinical areas, readily available measures to use as valid benchmarks to assess performance are lacking. As an alternative, he suggests adopting other, mostly overlooked, routes to improvement. His comments can be accessed at [http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2491628%20](http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2491628%20).