ASAHP BOARD ACTIONS

The Association's Board of Directors had a conference call on July 16, 2015. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of a Board Meeting in Washington, DC on June 3-4 were approved as presented.
- President Richard Oliver and Treasurer Kevin Rudeen gave reports. Additional reports were presented and discussed on the following topics: the upcoming ASAHP Annual Conference, 2016 ASAHP Spring Meeting, update on the winding down of the Allied Health Research Institute, overview of the slate of candidates for the 2015 ASAHP election, development of a recruitment strategy to attract new members, and progress on recruiting industry partners.
- Executive Director John Colbert provided an update regarding what is happening on Capitol Hill and in the Department of Education on the topic of state authorizations. Plans are underway to continue having discussions with key leaders in the Senate. The status of legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act also was discussed.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

The University of Missouri campus will host one of the first digital health storytelling conferences on September 10-11. Called DigHealth 2015, the endeavor is funded by Mizzou Advantage. It will bring together innovators in the healthcare, research, and communication industries to discuss current trends, best practices, and digital media techniques to improve health outcomes. The event is aimed at attracting personnel from health organizations, corporations, and non-profits, along with university faculty, staff, and students. Registration is open at http://journalism.missouri.edu/2015/05/innovative-digital-health-storytelling-conference-slated-for-sept-10-11/.

2015 ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Readers of the ASAHP UPDATE are requested to mark their calendars and plan on attending the Association’s 2015 Annual Conference that is scheduled to be held on October 28-30 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. Along with a series of presentations in concurrent sessions and at a poster session, the program will feature plenary session addresses by:

Jeffrey Selingo, Author of College (Un)Bound and MOOC U
Sarah Thomas, Director of Global Innovation, Genesis. Innovation Fellow, Aging 2.0
Ted Epperly, President and CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho
Robin Jones, Principal Investigator and Project Director, Great Lakes ADA Center

Lodging rates will start at $175 per night. A block of rooms is reserved for October 25-31, 2015. A special rate will be available until the group block is sold-out. Reservations can be made online at https://book.b4checkin.com/scottsdale/rpv1/NegotiatedRates.asp?TID=ASANL1015&CompanyName=ASAHP%20Annual%20Meeting%202015&Category=Group or by telephone at 1-800-832-2025.

Please indicate that you are with the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions to identify yourself as part of the room block.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The data collection period for ASAHP’s next iteration of the survey will open in early September and close by the end of November. Now is a good time to determine who will be assigned responsibility for collecting data. A User’s Guide is online at www.asahp.org in the section of the homepage labeled “Members.” It has proved to be immensely valuable for newcomers to the study. Last year 89 schools participated.
J. WARREN PERRY AWARD

The winners of the Journal of Allied Health’s 2015 J. Warren Perry Award are:

Timmerie F. Cohen (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Jeffrey S. Legg (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Their manuscript is entitled, “Factors Associated With HPV Vaccine Use Among Hispanic College Students.” It appeared in the Winter 2014 issue. The award will be presented during the Awards Dinner on October 28 at the ASAHP Annual Conference in Scottsdale, AZ.

The late J. Warren Perry was a founding member of ASAHP, became the Association’s 2nd President, and was the founder of the Journal of Allied Health. The selection of this year’s winning manuscript resulted from rankings developed by members of the periodical’s Editorial Board, who did not know who else was involved in producing scores. They each reviewed the top five articles that emerged, based on scores by reviewers on nine different criteria that are used during the pre-publication assessment process.

ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS

The process for regulating postsecondary online courses and programs needs to become more uniform nationally in order to safeguard students and ensure that institutions can provide quality education at a reasonable cost, according to the latest Quick Hit Brief released by the American Council on Education’s (ACE) Center for Education Attainment and Innovation. The paper, “A More Uniform Way of Recognizing Online Degree Programs Across State Lines, with SARA as a Focus,” notes that a good deal of the oversight and regulation of postsecondary education is carried out by the states, but in markedly different ways; especially in how each state deals with out-of-state-institutions that want to operate within the state.

SARA stands for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement that establishes a state-level reciprocity process with comparable national standards and policies for interstate offering of higher education distance-learning courses and programs. The Brief was prepared by Marshall Hill, National Council for SARA Executive Director, and it can be accessed at http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Quick-Hits-State-Authorization-Reciprocity-Agreement.pdf.

HIGHER EDUCATION CREDENTIALING

Also in July 2015, another Quick Hit Brief released by the American Council on Education’s (ACE) Center for Education Attainment and Innovation called for developing a new higher education credentialing system. A new, less confusing postsecondary education credentialing system would provide tangible benefits for students, workers, and employers. The paper, “Rethinking Credentialing,” posits that while the diversity of American higher education options and credentials is a strength that creates many opportunities, it also presents major challenges for students, employers, workers and policy makers using it.

The problem is that weak connections among parts of this multilayered credentialing system make it difficult for learners with different levels of abilities and needs to understand career pathway options and the most direct routes to learning in order to meet their goals, adding time and expense to their endeavors. Instead, a voluntary system that features attributes such as basing all postsecondary credentials, including degrees, on competencies, and allows users doing career planning or making job transitions to combine micro-credentials easily into customized bundles that fit their needs is envisioned.


HEALTH SPENDING GROWTH

According to a report appearing in the journal Health Affairs on July 28, health spending growth in the United States is projected to average 5.8 percent for 2014–24, rising to $5.4 trillion by 2024, while growth in nominal gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to average 4.7 percent. The increase reflects ACA’s coverage expansions, faster economic growth, and population aging. Recent historically low growth rates in the use of medical goods and services, along with medical prices are expected to increase gradually. Because of the impact of continued cost-sharing increases that are anticipated among health plans, the acceleration of these growth rates is expected to be modest. The health share of U.S. gross domestic product is projected to rise from 17.4% in 2013 to 19.6% in 2024.

The article can be accessed at http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2015/07/15/hlthaff.2015.0600.full.