2015 ASAHP SPRING MEETING

The theme for the Association’s 2015 Spring Meeting is “Higher Education at a Crossroads.” The event will be held at the Embassy Suites at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC on March 19-20.

Along with the annual presentation of the Deans Memorial Lecture, other key addresses will be made during plenary sessions by high quality speakers on the following topics: budget and finance; state authorization reciprocity agreements; and an overview of expectations for higher education policy in the 114th Congress. Coming days and weeks will feature additional information about: the program, how to register for the Spring Meeting, and how to make lodging reservations.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

The January 15 issue of the ASAHP UPDATE contained a solicitation for new reviewers for the Association’s Journal of Allied Health. As a result, the names of 14 individuals have been added to the roster of reviewers. The School of Health Related Professions at the University of Mississippi Medical Center proved to be a bountiful source of newcomers. Gratitude is expressed to all who responded.

ONE-STOP SHOPPING

A daily feature on the Association’s website is the NEWSWIRE, which for many years previously was known as “News Across The Professions.” As an example, the entry for January 27, 2015 refers to a report from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. This item also was mentioned in news accounts by the Washington Post, Reuters, and USA Today. While the coverage was reasonably well done, there was no link to the report itself whereas ASAHP did provide the link for the benefit of browsers. Information seekers at ASAHP member institutions who engage in writing journal articles, making speeches, and preparing grant proposals are among those who find it useful to refer to the Association’s website. Also, as a way of increasing access, each week a list of NEWSWIRE additions and links is distributed electronically by ASAHP.

2015 ASAHP ELECTION

Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 ASAHP Election. The following positions will be contested when the election begins on July 15:

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

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2015. They can be directed to any of the following individuals who serve on the Nominations & Elections Committee. The same holds true for obtaining information about the election, which is scheduled for next July.

Shelley Mishoe, Chairperson (Old Dominion University)
Tel: 757-683-4960
E-Mail: smishoe@odu.edu

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

Clay Graybeal (University of New England)
Tel: 207-221-4521
E-Mail: Cgraybeal@une.edu

Augustine Agho (Indiana University)
Tel: 317-274-4704
E-Mail: aagho@iupui.edu

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

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

Leslie Portney (MGH Institute of Health Professions)
Tel: 617-726-3170
E-Mail: lportney@mghihp.edu
2014 ASAHP ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the Association’s Annual Report is available and can be accessed from the Publications section of the ASAHP website. Five Strategic Plan Goals serve as a framework for describing events of importance that occurred in 2014, along with a listing of future initiatives that are in various stages of planning. Part of the Report includes a section on finances.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

Data were obtained from 89 member institutions in the 2014-2015 iteration of the ASAHP Institutional Profile. The findings are expected to become available by February 15, 2015. They contain valuable information about personnel salaries and student enrollment in selected professions.

21ST CENTURY CURES LEGISLATION

It is estimated that currently there are cures or treatments for only 500 of more than 7,000 known diseases. Led by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Diana DeGette (D-CO), the 21st Century Cures initiative is focused on discovering more cures and treatments for the benefit of patients more quickly. Over the last year, the committee has hosted hearings and roundtable discussions to identify ways to close gaps between regulation and health care.

A legislative focus is directed at the following areas: clinical trials, consumers/patients, information dissemination, investments in education/training, and addressing unmet medical needs. The 21st Century Cures initiative is an example of cross-sector collaboration in the health care industry. Historically, the health care ecosystem has been large, fragmented, and unwieldy, but the gap between disease and medicine plus the move to improving care have combined to create unique opportunities for more effective integration across all sectors.

Additional information in the form of White Papers and roundtable discussions can be accessed at http://energycommerce.house.gov/cures.

2015 HEALTHY AGING SUMMIT

Given the rapidly growing older segment of the U.S. population, a 2015 Healthy Aging Summit will be held in Washington, DC on July 27-28, 2015. Information and registration can be accessed at http://www.2015healthyagingsummit.org/.

HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Earlier this month, President Obama proposed to make community college tuition-free nationwide. The “America’s College Promise” initiative would pay for two years of community college for students who maintain a 2.5 GPA, attend school at least half-time, and make “steady progress” toward their degree. Federal funding would cover three-quarters of the cost while states would assume the remaining portion. Community colleges would be eligible by offering academic programs that fully transfer credits to local public four-year colleges and universities or training programs with high graduation rates that lead to “in-demand” degrees and certificates.

As a way of providing some context, the latest findings from the nation’s first effort to benchmark the persistence patterns of non-first-time (NFT) college students indicate that they are less likely to drop out and more likely to complete an associate degree if they combine full-time and part-time enrollment. Designed to begin addressing the lack of publicly available data on the success of adults returning to college, the benchmarking initiative is a cooperative effort involving the American Council on Education and other organizations. The findings have the potential to renew discussions about the effectiveness of mandatory “15 credits per semester” policies at two-year programs. More information about the study can be accessed at http://www.insidetrack.com/2015/01/20/national-study-of-non-first-time-students-shows-full-time-enrollment-may-not-be-appropriate-for-all.

Current Population Survey data on academic achievement by demographic characteristics are available. A variety of historical time series tables and graphs are provided. They can be accessed at http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/.

Meanwhile, noteworthy changes in the community college domain continue to occur. For example, 15 California community colleges should be able to offer four-year degrees starting as soon as next year. Officials gave initial approval after 36 schools and districts indicated they would apply for a chance to offer baccalaureate degrees. Final approval will be given in the spring. The campuses cannot teach four-year programs that already are being offered at other nearby state schools and cannot provide four-year nursing degrees.

Examples of programs that will be offered are: health information management, emergency services, dental hygiene, mortuary science, and respiratory care.