STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Each year, the Association sponsors the Scholarship of Excellence Program for allied health students enrolled in its member institutions. The purpose is to recognize outstanding individuals who excel in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions. Each student chosen for an award will receive a $1,000 scholarship.

In 2016, ASAHP gave scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards were provided by the firm of CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization status check services to member institutions.

The year 2013 marked the inauguration of the Elwood Scholar Award. Created by the Board of Directors and named for ASAHP’s former Executive Director Thomas W. Elwood who retired from that position in 2012, at the conclusion of the selection of the Scholarship of Excellence Award recipients, an additional review process will commence to identify the most outstanding applicant.

That individual will receive an additional $1,000 scholarship and a complimentary registration to the 2017 ASAHP Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX where he or she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Several conditions must be met to apply. Only one candidate from each member institution can be nominated. All degree levels are eligible. Information about application procedures is on the Web at www.asahp.org in the Action Section.

A key point to observe is that each application must include a letter endorsed by the dean or director who serves as the official ASAHP Institutional Representative that supports the nomination and describes qualities of the candidate, including academic and service achievements. A letter from a chairperson or faculty member also may be included. The deadline for submitting the necessary information is June 9, 2017.

ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On October 18th – 20th, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions will hold its 2017 Annual Conference at the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX. The theme of this year’s conference is: ASAHP At 50 - Reflections On The Past, A Window To The Future Of Healthcare.

Interested parties are invited to furnish support in the following categories: Sponsor: Provides opportunities to obtain recognition at events, such as plenary sessions, a reception, and refreshment breaks. Exhibitor: Provides booths to display information in a central area. Advertiser: Provides opportunities to obtain recognition either on the conference’s mobile app’s Splash Screen or Rotating Mobile Banner. Each of the three support categories also includes recognition in the conference’s section of the mobile app. Additional information and application forms are available at http://www.asahp.org/conferences.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

The Journal of Allied Health continues to be an attractive destination for authors to submit their manuscripts. During the period from January 1 to May 15 this year, a total of 57 manuscripts arrived, which represents an unusual brisk pace. Attempting to assign each one to three reviewers can be challenging. Despite having a panel of 231 of them, depending on the topic of a manuscript, it not always is easy to locate reviewers who either already are not conducting an assessment or who have done so enough times in the past year to be given a temporary reprieve.

Thus, newcomers to the ranks are most welcome, especially in the following professions: Dental Hygiene, Dietetics/Nutrition, Interprofessional Education, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, and Clinical Laboratory Science. Please send responses to thomas@asahp.org.

The Summer 2017 issue is on tap to be distributed in mid-June. The print edition features articles on: cultural competence, interprofessional education, critical thinking skills, and an innovative educational strategy to promote student compassion/caring.
NIH FUNDING

The NIH will limit the amount of funding that scientists supported by the agency can hold at any one time. The policy, announced on May 2, is intended to make it easier for early- and mid-career scientists to obtain NIH grants. A hard limit will not be set on the number of grants or the amount of funding that individual researchers can receive. Instead, it will introduce a grant-support index that assigns a point value to each type of grant on the basis of its complexity and size. Currently, just 10% of grant recipients win more than 40% of the NIH’s research money. The NIH announcement can be obtained at https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/new-nih-approach-grant-funding-aimed-optimizing-stewardship-taxpayer-dollars.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT

Over the past several years, total state expenditures have increased, on average, across the U.S. Pension expenditures (and liabilities) have increased the most—by an average of 61% between 2008 and 2015. Meanwhile, states decreased per-student higher-education spending by an average of 22.4% over the same period. State funding for higher education is nearly $10 billion (adjusted for inflation) below what it was in 2008.

Squeezing higher education to fund pensions is not a trend confined to red states. Trends are similar in states governed by Democrats. As a result, states are confronted with a choice between generations: students and retirees. A new report from the Manhattan Institute describes how spending on public-worker pensions is driving budget cuts that affect support for higher education. The report can be obtained at C:\Users\Tom\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE8VTG1YND\R-DD-0517.pdf.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND THE U.S.

The U.S. long has been a leader in global health. Yet, resources are not unlimited and the case for continued commitment must be made. With support from a broad array of federal agencies, foundations, and private partners, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened an ad hoc committee to identify global health priorities in light of current and emerging global health threats and challenges. A report provides recommendations for increasing responsiveness, coordination, and efficiency in addressing these threats. It can be obtained at https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24737/global-health-and-the-future-role-of-the-united-states.

HIGHER ED CHALLENGES

A volatile financial environment, greater accountability pressures, the need for new business models, new technologies, and changing demographics are just some of the challenges facing higher education leaders in the 21st century. Such challenges necessitate new forms of leadership, chief among them being the principles of collaborative or shared leadership. This kind of leadership is defined as moving away from the leader/follower binary and capitalizing on the importance of leaders throughout the organization, not just those in positions of authority.

In a new report from the American Council on Education (ACE) entitled, Shared Leadership in Higher Education: Important Lessons from Research and Practice, a proposition is advanced that shared leadership consistently emerges as a key factor for organizations that were best able to learn, innovate, perform, and adapt to the types of external challenges that campuses now face. In order to reap the benefits of shared leadership, organizations should ensure that such leadership structures and processes are authentic and thoughtfully designed. The report can be obtained at http://www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Documents/Shared-Leadership-in-Higher-Education.pdf.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors approved the development of two new PCORI Funding Announcements (PFAs) that together will offer up to $41 million in support of comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER). The PFAs will focus on two important topics. One will provide up to $16 million for research on the best ways to deliver medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders to pregnant women. The other will offer up to $25 million for studies on how to manage symptoms in patients with advanced illness most effectively. Each PFA responds to key concerns voiced by health care decision makers.

Patients with illnesses such as cancer, advanced heart disease, and kidney failure may face a variety of challenges, including symptoms, caregiver burden, and repeated hospitalizations, which can lower their quality of life. Unfortunately, there is a lack of evidence on the most effective ways to manage patients’ symptoms as disease advances. Pre-announcements offering preliminary details to prospective applicants can be obtained at http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities. Letters of intent from applicants will begin to be accepted in June 2017.