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 2017, 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 2018 ASAHP Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, FL where he or she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Only one candidate from each member institution can be nominated. All degree levels are eligible. An application form and additional information about criteria can be obtained at https://asahp.squarespace.com/scholarship/

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. A letter from a chairperson or faculty member also may be included. The deadline for submitting application and necessary information is June 11, 2018.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

On October 10-12, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions will hold its 2018 Annual Conference at the Vinoy Renaissance in St. Petersburg, FL. This year’s conference theme is “Allied Health Education on the Front Lines -- Expanding Access to Better Health and Health Care.” Interested parties are invited to contribute to the program by submitting abstracts to be presented in one of two formats:

- Paper presentation: a 35-minute Concurrent Session, or
- Poster presentation: during the conference-wide Poster Session

All abstract submissions are due no later than June 15, 2018 via the Abstract Submission Website at https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/720de1d2-a388-4702-b019-50a3f1d64b92. A new account will need to be created this year to submit abstracts. Additional information also is available at http://www.asahp.org/call-for-abstracts.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Courtesy of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), each year a series of county health ranking is prepared. This year's edition brings new analyses that show meaningful health gaps persist not only by place, but also among racial and ethnic groups. These gaps are largely the result of differences in opportunities in the places where individuals live. Discriminatory practices and structural and institutional policies, such as unfair bank lending practices and property tax-based school funding formulas, contribute to the types of racial disparities that occur.

ASAHP UPDATE readers with an interest in learning how their counties compare may do so at http://www.countyhealthrankings.org. Length of life, quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, and physical environment provide the headings under which various factors are listed.
INTERPROFESSIONAL SUMMIT

On July 28, 2018 from 12:00 PM-5:00 PM in Minneapolis, MN, ASAHP is hosting a free Summit on Healthcare Workforce Readiness for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. It will be a pre-conference session to the Nexus Summit, sponsored by the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, which will be held at the same venue.

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended, which can be accomplished at https://goo.gl/forms/OvXvP3a6PXbPDRnG2. Also, Anthony Breitbach, ASAHP IP Chairperson, can be reached for more information at ipe@asahp.org. Information about the Nexus Summit is available at https://summit.nexusipe.org.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) requests nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on review committees that include:

- One Allied Educator (Pre-doctoral Dental Education Review Committee)*
- One Dental Assisting Educator (Dental Assisting Education Review Committee)*
- One Dental Assisting Practitioner (Dental Assisting Education Review Committee)
- Two Dental Hygiene Educators (Dental Hygiene Education Review Committee)*
- One Dental Hygiene Practitioner (Dental Hygiene Education Review Committee)

(*Prior or current experience as a Commission site visitor required.) The deadline for all nominations is June 1, 2018. Criteria for selection and Review Committee Nomination Forms can be obtained at: https://www.ada.org/en/coda/accreditation/accreditation-news/call-for-nominations.

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CAREER PATHS

A new report calls for a series of substantial reforms to strengthen the U.S. biomedical research system for the next generation of scientists, including recommendations to open career paths inside and outside of academia for early career scientists. The report can be obtained at https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25008/the-next-generation-of-biomedical-and-behavioral-sciences-researchers-breaking.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

As a result of its overwhelming presence in the health sphere, health policy discussions tend to have a focus on what transpires at the federal level through entities, such as the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). When discussions involve the health professions, however, attention shifts to the state level where controversies and resolutions involving scope of practice laws and regulations predominate.

The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill is at the forefront of efforts to conduct thorough analyses of health problems in that state from the perspective of the roles that health professionals play in solving them. Findings from studies conducted in that state have a substantial impact on laws and regulations that subsequently emerge.

According to a presentation made in North Carolina on April 9, 2018 by Sheps personnel, reasons why it is critically important to address scope of practice issues are as follows:

- Scope of practice battles are emerging with increased frequency due to concerns about shortages, rising health care costs, and access to care issues.
- Health professional regulation is a state function, which results in much variation among states. Health professionals are limited in the services that they can provide, depending on the state where they work.
- Strong professional groups are involved in scope of practice battles, often focused on professional self-interest, not patients’ interests.
- Lack of evidence about scope of practice changes makes evaluation difficult.

Driving forces include: (1) Increased pressure from payers and large health care systems to contain costs, (2) New payment models that encourage task shifting to lower cost health care workers, (3) New care delivery models that encourage team-based models of care and new roles for health care professionals, and (4) Increasing involvement of corporate players in health care, such as Walmart.