ASAHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association’s 2019 Annual Conference will be on October 16-18 in Charleston, SC. The theme is “Keeping Ahead of the Curve: Allied Health Education in the Evolving World of Health Care Delivery.”

A morning Plenary Session Address on Day 1 will be delivered by Jody Feder, Director of Accountability and Regulatory Affairs at the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities. She previously was a legislative attorney with the Congressional Research Service, providing advice and analysis to Members of Congress and their staff on civil rights and education law. She was a member of the Department of Education’s Negotiated Rulemaking session earlier this year on State Authorization and Accreditation. She will update conference attendees on the Department’s upcoming rulemaking and its potential impact on allied health education.

A Plenary Session Address on the morning of Day 2 of the conference will be delivered by Lisa K. Saladin, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for the Medical University of South Carolina. Her position involves serving as the chief academic officer, responsible for setting the university’s vision, strategic planning, oversight and investment for education and biomedical research. The Vice President for Research, Associate Provost for Educational Affairs and Student Life, and six college deans report to her.Provost.

Hotel bookings at the Charleston Marriott at the room block special rate run through September 23 or until the group block is sold-out. More information about the conference is available at www.asahp.org.

JOURNAL OF ALLIED HEALTH

Kevin Rudeen, former ASAHP Treasurer and member of the Association’s Board of Directors, announced that he no longer will be a member of the Journal’s Editorial Board and a reviewer. He served in both capacities with great distinction after retiring as Dean at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He will be succeeded on the journal by Dean Bonnie Van Lunen of Old Dominion University.

BOARD ACTIONS

The Association’s Board of Directors had a conference call on August 29, 2019. The following actions were among those taken:

➢ The Minutes from the June 19-20, 2019 meeting in Minneapolis were approved as presented.

➢ President Susan Hanrahan reported that an increase in members using the ASAHP’s Higher Logic Listserv has been noted. Also, associations of PT/OT/SLP have contacted ASAHP and CGFNS seeking more information about ASAHP’s Global Certification Program for rehab workers. ASAHP is working with CGFNS on a response to this request.

➢ Treasurer Gregory Frazer discussed the volatility of investment markets and provided current summary data for ASAHP’s investments and lockbox holdings.

➢ Executive Director John Colbert presented the results of the ASAHP election for Secretary, two positions on the Board of Directors, and three positions on the Nominations and Election Committee. These results will be made publicly after every candidate has been notified.

➢ Director Brian Shulman provided an update on Alpha Eta, reporting that Alpha Eta sees ASAHP’s support as positive and of value.

➢ President Hanrahan reported that validation of Institutional Profile Survey data is close to being finished. It is anticipated that the second survey will be open by late September/early October and the first report will be released to the membership very soon.

➢ The Strategic Planning Workshop will be held in Clearwater Beach, FL on January 28-29, 2020.
IPE AWARD RECOGNITION

The August 30, 2019 issue of the ASAHP UPDATE listed the University of Buffalo as one of three institutions designated as a Program of Merit in competition for ASAHP’s award for “Institutional Excellence and Innovation in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Health Care.” A news item from the university that was posted on the Web on September 11 noted that this prestigious national award signals that the UB IPE program is a leader in the development of future health professionals who will have the knowledge and skills to improve patient and population health through collaborative practice.

UB’s selection recognizes the excellence of the program developed in interprofessional education by a team of educators from the institution’s schools of dental medicine, law, management, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, public health and health professions, and social work. UB started a pilot program in interprofessional education in 2012 before implementing the curriculum for all health sciences students in fall 2016. The program currently serves approximately 2,500 students in 12 health professions education programs across eight schools. More information can be obtained at http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/home/news-events/news-archive/latest-news/host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2019/09/ipe-award.detail.html.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Americans collectively owe more than $1.6 trillion in student debt in 2019 and the number of families burdened has grown rapidly. One in five U.S. households now has student loan debt, compared to one in 10 in 1989. The situation hinders economic progress in many ways, including reinforcing racial wealth inequality. Demos, The Century Foundation and The Roosevelt Institute jointly produced a new report on student loan debt and the racial wealth gap.

The document compiles research on racial disparities both in the use of student debt and in higher education outcomes, specifically focusing on disparities between white students and black students. Two streams of research are brought together that often are in silos: research from experts on higher education access and success alongside research from others who specialize in race inequality and the racial wealth gap.


UNAFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION

New research made available by the Institute for Higher Education Policy concludes that only six state flagship universities offer an affordable education for low- or middle-income students. Public flagship universities often are the most selective, rigorous, and well-resourced public schools in each state, and their important status and name recognition play an important role in raising the college-going aspirations of state residents. Flagships are well-positioned to promote social and economic mobility, but increasingly high costs of attendance, declining state investment, and inadequate and poorly-targeted financial policies mean that too few low-income students have meaningful access to these elite institutions.

The report draws on data from each university’s net price calculator to assess their affordability for five prototypical college students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. While state flagships promise a high-quality, affordable path to a college degree for state residents, this analysis finds that these institutions are too expensive for most aspiring and enrolled low-income college students. A conclusion reached is that unless states and institutions change their priorities to make these universities more affordable, they risk perpetuating rather than disrupting the cycle of intergenerational poverty that has persisted for decades. The report can be obtained at http://www.ihep.org/sites/default/files/uploads/docs/pubbs/ihep_flagship_afford_report_final.pdf.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

The ability to achieve success at the college level can depend on the quality of education at lower levels. The Education Week Research Center recently issued its 23rd annual report card of state education systems. The nation as a whole once again earns a C grade, with New Jersey occupying the top spot. Final grades reflect some perennial patterns. In the category of academic achievement alone, no state topped Massachusetts and 44 states scored a C or lower. Top-ranking states are largely clustered in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, while Southern states with high poverty rates dominate the lower rankings.