ASAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Association’s Board of Directors had a conference call on March 18, 2021. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of a conference call on February 18, 2021 were reviewed and approved as written.

- President Phyllis King reported that webinars continue to be successful. Offerings are listed on the ASAHP website. Curriculum innovations and experiential learning webinars have been timely given the challenges of education delivery during COVID. Basecamp is working well as a communication tool and committee chairpersons report easy to use.

- Reporting for Treasurer Brian Shulman, President King indicated the value of investments at Merrill Lynch and the amount of money in the lockbox at SunTrust Bank.

- President King reported that while CGFNS International, Inc and ASAHP will no longer be in direct partnership on an initiative, ASAHP will continue to update the membership about opportunities to participate with CGFNS in the development of this global effort.

- Approved adoption of the Analytics tool, a virtual set of visualized dashboards to enhance data reporting and support strategic decisions, by Liaison for the Allied Health Centralized Application Service.

- The 2021 Annual Conference will be held October 20-22 in Long Beach, CA, but can be cancelled without penalty if due to COVID.

- For the Strategic Plan, the Marketing and Communication Committee has established five goals that include surveying about the perceived value of membership in ASAHP and the need to develop a marketing and communication plan.

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 2020, ASAHP gave scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards were provided by the firm of castlebranch.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 2021 ASAHP Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA 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 an application and necessary information is June 4, 2021.
**INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AWARD**

Through the Award for Institutional Excellence and Innovation in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Health Care, ASAHP plans to recognize a member institution or industry member for outstanding achievement in interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP). Several institutions also will be recognized as “Programs of Merit.” Award recipients will be acknowledged at the ASAHP Annual Conference in October 2021 in Long Beach, CA. Award nominations must be submitted by the designated ASAHP member representative.

The application period closes on **May 1, 2021**. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than August 1, 2021. All nominations must be submitted via the online form at [https://www.asahp.org/ip-award](https://www.asahp.org/ip-award).

**ASAHP AWARD OPPORTUNITY**

The Interprofessional Task Force (IPTF) of the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP), in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati (UC), developed the **Interprofessional Innovation Grant (IIG) Program** to provide support for interprofessional collaboration research among the ASAHP membership. The intent is to provide recipients a competitive edge in securing additional funding by supporting pilot projects and further developing grantsmanship skill sets. The intent of the IIG Program is that proposals submitted can be used to develop larger, more extensive interprofessional research projects that further engage faculty and ASAHP members in research endeavors. The IPTF and the UC expect to fund three awards up to $2,000 per award for projects between September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The application deadline is **June 1, 2021**.

Eligibility criteria include the following:

- The proposal has a clear timeline to be completed in nine months.
- A potential exists for future external funding.
- The principal investigator (PI) is representing an ASAHP-affiliated institution.
- Applicants may only be the PI on one application and the Co-PI on one application. The latter group also may include faculty from other ASAHP member institutions.
- A statement providing assurance that the PI has sufficient content knowledge, time, and local support to execute the proposed project.


**COVID ECONOMY YEAR ONE**

March 2021 marks one year since the declaration of the pandemic and the start of a devastating recession. According to a report from the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, along with the sobering death toll, the COVID recession led to a loss of employment income in households among 47% of adults. Individuals from lower-income households and those in occupations and industries that rely on in-person interaction were most likely to be affected.

The swift rollout of the vaccine is an encouraging sign for the economic recovery. As of mid-March, 32% of U.S. adults had received at least one dose. Adults with bachelor’s degrees or higher were more likely to be vaccinated because the first phase of distribution prioritized healthcare workers, who are more likely to have a college degree. Beyond the first phase, there have been notable disparities in vaccine access.

In certain states, vaccine centers are located mostly in White, higher-income neighborhoods where hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and pharmacies tend to be located. Limited internet access, transportation issues, and inflexible work schedules have contributed to the lower likelihood that Black and Latino adults have been able to schedule and receive a COVID-19 vaccine.


**HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING**

A new report from the Pew Charitable Trusts indicates that although states and the federal government have long provided substantial financial support for higher education, in recent years, their respective levels of contribution have shifted significantly. Over the past two decades and particularly since the Great Recession, spending across levels of government converged as state investments declined and federal support grew.

Resources are channeled into the higher education system in different ways. The federal government mainly provides financial assistance to individual students and specific research projects, while states primarily pay for the general operations of public institutions. Decisions at both levels will determine whether the funding convergence that has occurred in recent years is temporary or is a more lasting reconfiguration. The report can be obtained at [fedstatefundinghigheredu_chartbook_v1.pdf](https://pewtrusts.org) (pewtrusts.org).