



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

202.777.1170
202.777.0107 fax

888 17th Street, NW • Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20006 • www.aannet.org

March 30, 2010

Dear AAN Fellows:

As President of the American Academy of Nursing, I write to tell you that this organization – through the engagement and support of our Fellows and the hard work of our elected leadership and staff – has achieved the goals specified in our 2004-2010 Strategic Plan. We are on course to become leaders for policy development health care in the U.S.

Our sights are now set on new goals that will drive the Academy's 2011-2014 Strategic Plan. The AAN Board and staff have just completed several exciting days of board meetings in Washington, DC in which we continued our work on the new AAN Strategic Plan. The development of our plan has involved the work of many of our Fellows. In addition to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee, the participants in our interactive 2009 Annual Meeting provided us with a great deal of feedback and many suggestions for the tactics in our plan. But, importantly, our Fellows recently provided very valuable feedback to our draft strategic plan that was posted on the Academy's Web site. The response was overwhelming and suggests to us that you are engaged and want to be a part of the Academy's future. On behalf of the Board, I offer my sincere thanks for your thoughtful input.

Under the latest Strategic Plan, the Academy will launch new initiatives that highlight the unique expertise and contributions of our Fellows, and all nurses, for health professions, consumers, media and policy makers. We will strive to:

- Advance the identification and implementation of evidence-based innovations in the delivery of nursing and interdisciplinary care to address the health needs of populations, including diverse, at risk, and disenfranchised populations.
- Influence health policy to improve health outcomes and delivery of care.
- Promote 1) knowledge development, 2) translational research and 3) health policy research that advances health and quality health care.
- Improve the Academy's capacity to strategically engage the Fellows' expertise.

Our signature communications initiative, *Raise the Voice*, will remain a key vehicle for putting the work of innovative “Edge Runner” nurses and the Academy at center stage in ongoing discussions of health care policy reform.

We have launched a five-year financial planning process that includes careful analysis of the many ideas for Academy sponsored activities and projects to advance the new plan. We are working to diversify our funding sources and seeking ways to make the best use of all of you, our significant *intellectual* capital. We are examining the ways in which we can improve our communication and engagement with our Fellows.

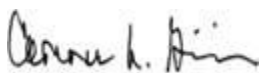
Our current progress rests on the success of the last several years. Only two years ago, The Academy consolidated our headquarters into an office in Washington, DC. We hired a staff of professionals dedicated to meeting our needs, and working with our elected officers to promote the development and use of knowledge in support of health policy advancement. We achieved a fairly seamless shift in operational work as we moved into Washington.

Five years ago the Academy’s Chief Executive Officer, Fellow Pat Ford-Roegner, came to the Academy to establish our policy presence in Washington. She was well known in Washington as a policy-insider and quickly initiated programs that would build the Academy’s influence. Just over two years ago, Pat hired the staff to operate our Washington, DC office and the responsibilities previously handled by an outside management company. With a stable operational base and an established presence in Washington, DC, Pat Ford-Roegner has decided to leave her position as Academy CEO in early June 2010. I want to thank Pat for her commitment and leadership in guiding us through these last five years.

Our search for the next Academy CEO is about to begin. I am assembling a search committee and taking other appropriate steps to assure that we continue to have the necessary executive leadership in place to achieve our new strategic goals. Your input to the necessary qualifications and characteristics for our CEO is important to our search and I invite you to forward your ideas directly to me at: Catherine.Gilliss@Duke.edu. I also welcome your recommendations of possible successors. Your comments will be treated as confidential.

Thank you for your support and the advice you have shared with me as your President. I am honored to serve the Academy and look forward to serving you and leading the Academy as a strong voice in healthcare policy.

Sincerely,



Catherine L. Gilliss, DNSc, RN, FAAN
President