Nurses For Tomorrow:
Innovative approaches for leading and learning

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011
WHYY | Independence Mall West | 150 North Sixth Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106
October 6, 2011

Welcome Forum Participants:

Thank you for attending our 2011 Nurses for Tomorrow Forum. Now more than ever, we’re excited to host this special event dedicated to the future of nursing, one of the most essential, diverse, and rapidly changing professions in our health care system.

On the road ahead, nurses will have an even greater and more influential role in how health care is delivered. Nurses are increasingly on the front lines for providing primary care; they save lives and improve patient outcomes. Adequate expert education and training are critical; however, to ensure future nurses have the skills and experience they need to continue to provide quality care in different settings and to an aging population.

That is why today’s forum is so important. By bringing together national and local nursing leaders to discuss current nursing trends and challenges, identify gaps in care, and design solutions, we will be able to forge partnerships to improve learning and care. With a terrific lineup of great speakers and outstanding leaders representing a cross-function of nursing models and communities, we could not be more excited at the prospects that will result from such an important agenda.

Supporting the training and development of future nurses and nurse educators is a critical objective to Independence Blue Cross because of the direct impact nurses have on the health and wellness of the people and communities we serve. While we are proud of what we have already accomplished together, the future is even brighter with opportunities to build on those successes. Through forums like these, we are working together to plan for that bright future because we believe we can have a dramatic impact on the lives of those in need.

Independence Blue Cross is honored to be your partner in progress.

Yours in good health,

Daniel J. Hilferty
President and Chief Executive Officer
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Prior to joining Independence Blue Cross in January 2010 after a successful tenure as president and chief executive officer of AmeriHealth Mercy Family of Companies, a Medicaid managed care services company serving 6.5 million people nationwide. AmeriHealth Mercy is jointly owned through the partnership of Independence Blue Cross and Mercy Health System. Prior to this role, Hilferty had been a senior vice president of corporate and government affairs for Mercy Health System in southeastern Pennsylvania. He had also served as the executive director of PennPorts with the Office of Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, a role in which he managed all economic development programs and legislative related to the ports of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie. In 1994, Hilferty ran for the position of lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania.

Deeply committed to our region, Hilferty lends his time and expertise to a number of organizations. In addition to his corporate responsibilities, he currently serves on the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and on the boards of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, J.J. White Inc., and the Irish Educational Development Foundation. He is a member of the board of trustees of the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Drexel Neumann Academy, and the vice chair of the board of trustees of Saint Joseph’s University. In 2008, Saint Joseph’s University’s Erivan K. Haub School of Business honored alumnus Hilferty with its Hall of Fame award.

Nationally, Hilferty serves on the board of directors for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association — a national federation of 39 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies that collectively provide health care coverage for nearly one in three Americans – and for America’s Health Insurance Plans, a national association representing nearly 1,300 member companies providing health insurance coverage to more than 200 million Americans. Hilferty’s long-standing commitment to the community is evidenced by his work with the Pedro Arrupe Center for Business Ethics and his role as chair of the Drexel Neumann Academy Development Committee. He was honored in 2009 by Philadelphia’s Northern Home for Children for his work bettering the lives of underserved children.

Hilferty received a master’s degree in public administration from American University in Washington, DC, and a bachelor of science in accounting from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. He resides in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Joan, and their five children.

Paul A. Tufano, ESQ.
Executive Vice President,
General Counsel and President of Government Markets
Independence Blue Cross

Paul A. Tufano is executive vice president, general counsel & president of Government Markets of Independence Blue Cross, a full-service health insurance corporation headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Independence Blue Cross is the Philadelphia region’s largest health insurer. In his role as general counsel, Mr. Tufano is responsible for the company’s legal, regulatory, government and public affairs. As the president of Government Markets, he oversees the company’s interests in Medicare and Medicaid, as well in state-sponsored insurance products.

Prior to joining Independence Blue Cross, Mr. Tufano served as general counsel of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, from January 1995 until November 1999. Mr. Tufano and a staff of over 500 attorneys represented Governor Tom Ridge, all 22 executive branch agencies, as well as 10 independent agencies in litigation, transactions, and regulatory, legislative and criminal justice matters. He was a member of the Governor’s Cabinet and the Governor’s Senior Staff. Mr. Tufano has served as a member of the seven-person transition team following Governor Ridge’s election in November 1994.

In November 2002, then Governor-elect Ed Rendell appointed Mr. Tufano as co-chairman of his transition team. Currently, he is a member of Governor-elect Tom Corbett’s Transition Team.

Mr. Tufano has been active in his support for funding legal services for the poor. He worked with Governor Ridge in reestablishing state funding for such services in 1995, and has been honored for his efforts by receiving the Pennsylvania Legal Services Outstanding Leadership Award (1996) and the Community Legal Services of Philadelphia Champion of Justice Award (1997). He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, which exists to raise funds for legal services for the poor.

Mr. Tufano’s other activities in the legal community include his having served as the founding chairman of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Government Lawyers Committee. He is a former member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s House of Delegates. Mr. Tufano served on the Judicial Council of Pennsylvania, a body created by the Supreme Court to assist in the administration of the Judicial Branch. He is a member of the Villanova University School of Law Board of Visitors.

Mr. Tufano serves as a trustee of Villanova University and is a former trustee of The Pennsylvania State University, Avenue of the Arts, Inc., Franklin & Marshall College, Moore College of Art & Design, and Rosemont School of the Holy Child. He currently serves as chair of the board of directors of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and is a board member of WHYY (public television and radio) and the Committee of Seventy. Mr. Tufano is the past Chairman of the Board of the Philadelphia Shipyard Development Corporation.

Mr. Tufano has received the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s President’s Award (1998) and its Pro Bono Award (1998). He appears in Who’s Who in American Law, 6th Edition. He received the Justian Foundation’s Professional Achievement Award (1998), and the St. Thomas of Villanova Medal from Villanova University (2001). He was honored by the Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (2003) for his contributions to the Arts.

Mr. Tufano is a graduate of Villanova University, where he earned both his bachelor’s degree and law degree.
Stephen P. Fera
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs
Independence Blue Cross

Stephen Fera is senior vice president of public affairs. In his role, Steve leads the government relations, public policy, and community affairs areas. Steve also oversees numerous programs that further our community leadership by providing financial support for initiatives aimed at enhancing the health and wellness of the people and communities we serve.

Since joining IBC in 1990, Steve has held executive level positions in government business and has led major community programs such as our Caring Foundation, Nurse Scholars, and Charitable Medical Care Grant programs.

He has a B.S. in Marketing and an MBA in Finance, both from St. Joseph’s University.

Reverend Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake
Vice President, Community Affairs
Independence Blue Cross

Reverend Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake is vice president of Community Affairs for Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is an expert in Corporate Management, Public Relations and Communications. Marshall-Blake's decisions not only have a major impact on Blue Cross's over 3 million subscribers, but the multi-billion health insurance industry as a whole. Her responsibility is to ensure that decision makers, at the highest levels, have a clear understanding of Blue Cross’s goals and objectives and its commitment to subscribers. In 1991, Marshall-Blake began her role at Blue Cross working with the local, state and federal legislators, and agencies on matters relevant to Independence Blue Cross. She is a registered lobbyist in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Marshall-Blake has 35 years of experience in corporate management, public relations, and communications. She began her professional career as an administrative assistant working in major corporations in the Philadelphia area. In 1980, Marshall-Blake worked as assistant to the president of Philadelphia Gas Works. In 1988, she was promoted to vice president of Government and Community Relations at Philadelphia Gas Works.

Marshall-Blake grew up in the Philadelphia area. She is one of five children. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services from Antioch College and a Master of Arts in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. She is presently studying at Palmer Theological Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree. On May 20, 2007, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania.

In addition to her corporate responsibility, Marshall-Blake serves as an associate minister at the Vine Memorial Baptist Church.

Marshall-Blake exhibits a strong commitment to the community. She is people-centered, highly motivated, and uses a participatory approach to problem solving. She is affiliated with over 30 professional and civic organizations. Among her affiliations are the United Negro College Fund, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Federal Affairs Committee, Urban Affairs Coalition, and the Governor’s Patient Safety Authority. She is also affiliated with 2000 African American Women, the Community College of Philadelphia, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Marshall-Blake says, “We have to take knowledge and pass it on. We must mentor our young men and women. We must reach back and give.” In her community, she serves as a mentor to eight “daughters,” a group of young adult women who are in the process of establishing their careers.

Marshall-Blake has three children: Julian, Chawnda, and Jamila and one grandchild, Jamile.
Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Senior Advisor for Nursing, where she is tasked with shaping and leading the Foundation’s strategies to address the nurse and nurse faculty shortages in an effort to create a higher quality of patient care in the United States. Drawn to the Foundation’s “organizational advocacy for the less fortunate and underserved,” Hassmiller is helping to assure that RWJF’s commitments in nursing have a broad and lasting national impact. She is overseeing the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action in partnership with AARP. This is an effort dedicated to implementing the recommendations of the IOM report on the Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.

Previously, Hassmiller was with the Health Resources and Services Administration, where she was the executive director of the U.S. Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellowship and worked on other national and international primary care initiatives. She also has worked in public health settings at the local and state level and taught public health nursing at the University of Nebraska and George Mason University in Virginia.

Hassmiller is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a member of the JCAHO National Nurse Advisory Council and the New York Academy of Medicine. She is the recipient of a number of awards, most notably, the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest international honor given to a nurse by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

M. Elaine Tagliareni is currently the Chief Program Officer at the National League for Nursing, New York. For over 20 years Elaine was a Professor of Nursing and the Independence Foundation Chair in Community Health Nursing Education at Community College of Philadelphia. Elaine also served as President of the NLN from 2007-2009; in that position Elaine worked to re-frame the dialogue concerning entry into practice to focus on developing and supporting models that increase the academic progression of all nursing graduates, from LPN to baccalaureate to masters’ and doctoral programs, to build a more diverse and educated workforce. In her role as Independence Foundation Chair, she has served as president of the National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC) to advance state and federal health policy to include nurse managed health centers as essential safety net providers for vulnerable populations.

She has a long history of organizational leadership and grant funded initiatives, funded through the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health and The John A. Hartford Foundation to advance nursing practice and education, increase diversity of the nursing workforce and promote educational mobility for all nurses through the creation, implementation, and dissemination of new educational models. Currently, Elaine is the PI on a John A. Hartford Foundation funded project (2009-2012) to integrate geriatrics in pre-licensure nursing programs, in collaboration with the National League for Nursing.

Dr. Tagliareni received her BSN from Georgetown University School of Nursing, a Masters’ Degree in Mental Health and Community Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco and her doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University.
Tara Cortes, PhD, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
Hartford Institute for Geriatrics
Professor in Geriatric Nursing
New York University College of Nursing

Tara Cortes is recognized for her distinguished career spanning executive leadership, nursing education, research and practice.

She is currently the Executive Director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatrics, and a Professor in Geriatric Nursing at the New York University College of Nursing. Dr. Cortes has provided significant contributions to advance the health of people, particularly those with limited access to the health care system. Importantly, she has developed collaborative models with advanced practice nurses and physicians in traditional as well as nontraditional settings to enhance the care of the American elderly population.

As Executive Director of the Hartford Institute, Dr. Cortes brings her leadership, experience and wisdom to enhance select respected existing programs in the Institute and to develop new and innovative initiatives. The consistent theme across her work is the essential role of advanced practice nurses improving the quality of life in specific patient populations, and the interdisciplinary nature of health care. Dr. Cortes is a leader in developing, evaluating, and implementing advanced nursing practice and collaborative practice. Her work has contributed to advancing interdisciplinary models across the continuum of care to reduce disparities in access to care, and to assure healthy aging in place. She has helped change policy and practice in geriatric care and in low-vision and blindness care by developing roles for advanced practice nurses to provide care to those with poor access to resources due to lack of knowledge or functional disabilities.

Prior to joining the NYU College of Nursing, Dr. Cortes was President and CEO of LightHouse International, a leading not-for-profit organization, dedicated to fighting vision loss and helping people prevent vision impairment. She mindfully transformed the organization to a health care provider from a social charity, and was recognized worldwide for her leadership in helping to move the field of vision loss to health care from that of disability. Dr. Cortes spent the initial phase of her career in nursing education at Hunter College, and then as the Head of Nursing Research and Information Systems at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. She was the Chief Nursing Officer at Rockefeller University Hospital and continued her career in nursing and hospital administration at Mount Sinai Medical Center and at Bridgeport Hospital, before assuming the senior leadership role at LightHouse International.

Dr. Cortes has been a globally recognized leader advocating for government decision makers to recognize and support eye disease as a health priority, and facilitate access to treatments and low vision rehabilitation worldwide. She served on the Boards of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and the AMD Alliance International, and was appointed by the New York State Governor to the Executive Board of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

Dr. Cortes is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. She is a Past Fellow of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from New York University, where she completed her PhD and Masters’ degrees. Her BSN is from Villanova University, where she served on the Board of Trustees, and was recently awarded the Medalion for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession. Dr. Cortes serves on the Board of the Visiting Nurse Regional Health Care System, the Board of the National Accreditation Council for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, and on the U.S. Army New York City Community Advisory Board.

Tine Hansen-Turton, MGA, JD
CEO
National Nursing Centers Consortium
Vice President
Health Care Access and Policy
Public Health Management Corporation
Founding Executive Director
Convenient Care Association

Tine Hansen-Turton has over 15 years of experience in providing executive management and has led several national public and private sector health care movements using nurse practitioners in a primary care provider role. Tine, known to be an effective change agent, systems-thinker and policy advocate, currently serves as Vice President for Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), a large nonprofit public health institute, which manages large-scale public health programs and provides technical assistance to nonprofit organizations. In her Vice President capacity, she serves as CEO of the National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC), a non-profit organization supporting the growth and development of over 250 nurse-managed health centers, serving more than 2.5 million vulnerable people across the country. Tine has been instrumental in positioning Nurse Practitioners as primary health care providers globally. She has raised over 300 million dollars to date and was instrumental in nurse-managed health centers being defined in federal law and authorized by U.S. Congress as a permanent health center program. Tine Hansen-Turton also serves as the founding Executive Director for the Convenient Care Association (CCA), a national trade association of over 1200 emerging private-sector based retail clinics, providing basic primary health care to over 17 million people nationally.

Tine writes and publishes for many peer-review professional healthcare and legal journals and is a regular presenter at national health care conferences. She is co-author of “Community and Nurse-Managed Health Centers: Getting them Started and Keeping them Going,” an American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award Winner, “Nurse-managed Wellness Centers: Developing and Maintaining Your Center,” both published by Springer Publishing Company, and “Conversations with Leaders,” published by Sigma Theta Tau International. She is also adjunct faculty at LaSalle University and the University of Pennsylvania Fels Institute of Government, where she teaches health policy, social innovations and leading nonprofits. She recently co-founded a volunteer-driven web-based regional journal, Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal, which highlights social innovators in the Philadelphia region.

Tine received her BA from Slippery Rock University, her Master’s in Government Administration from University of Pennsylvania Fels Institute and her Juris Doctor from Temple University Beasley School of Law.
Richard Snyder, MD is the senior vice president and chief medical officer for the Independence Blue Cross Family of Companies where he has been employed since 1997. In that capacity he has accountability for all care management activities including utilization management, care management, disease management, medical policy, population health and wellness and pharmacy management. He also has accountability for the popular Healthy LifeStyles programs, quality management, Health Plan accreditation, credentialing, and oversight of delegated activities.

Dr. Snyder is co-chair of the Chronic Care Management, Reimbursement, and Cost Reduction Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that has a goal to improve the quality and coordination of health care delivery and promote self-management for Pennsylvanians with chronic illnesses.

He was a long-standing surveyor for the national committee for quality Assurance and has served as chair of the Review Oversight Committee responsible for the accreditation determinations for health plan Accreditation Surveys, and the Reconsideration Committee. He also serves on the Board of the Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance.

Dr. Snyder is a member of the American Medical Association, the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance, and sits on a variety of other state and professional advisory committees.

Richard L. Snyder, MD
Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Independence Blue Cross

Ali Gorman joined Action News in March 2008 as the health and medical reporter. Ali grew up in South Jersey and graduated from Eastern High School in Voorhees, New Jersey. She then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgetown University.

Ali worked as a registered nurse for several years and served as a Nurse Corps officer in the U.S. Navy before going back to school to earn her master’s degree at Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism. Before returning to work for her hometown station, Ali was a reporter in Jacksonville, Florida, where she covered everything from wildfires to death penalty court proceedings to the discovery of a blood test that may be able to predict Alzheimer’s Disease. Ali’s journalism career also included a stop in Lansing, Michigan.

When Ali is not reporting on the latest medical news, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, working out and taking trips to the shore.

Ali Gorman
Action News Health and Medical Reporter
6ABC
Ellen-Marie Whelan is a Senior Advisor at the Innovation Center within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) where she is working to develop and implement innovative primary care programs to improve and update the nation’s health care delivery systems.

Before moving to CMS, Dr. Whelan was the Associate Director of Health Policy at the Center for American Progress where her research, publications, and speaking engagements focused on development and passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, system delivery and payment reform, safety net providers, primary care, health workforce policy, comparative effectiveness research, and prevention.

Prior to joining CAP, she was a health policy advisor in the U.S. Senate for five years – working for both Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and as Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Aging to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions with Senator Barbara Mikulski. Before coming to Capitol Hill, Dr. Whelan was a health services researcher and faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University and practiced as nurse practitioners for over a decade. She has worked in a variety of primary care settings and started an adolescent primary care clinic in West Philadelphia.

Dr. Whelan holds a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University, a master’s degree and Ph.D. in nursing and health policy from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in primary care policy at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Ellen-Marie Whelan, NP, PhD
Senior Advisor, Innovation Center
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Patricia Gerrity, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate Dean for Community Programs
Drexel University College of Nursing & Health Professions
Director
Eleventh Street Family Health Services of Drexel University

Dr. Gerrity presently serves as Associate Dean for Community Programs at Drexel University’s College of Nursing & Health Professions. She focused her career on providing access to health care for underserved populations through the advancement of nurse-managed health centers. Nationally known for her work in promoting health in diverse urban communities, she received more than $15 million in grants from local, state and federal sources, including HRSA, the Pennsylvania State Department of Health, the Independence Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts. She also serves as the Director of the Eleventh Street Family Health Services of Drexel University, a nurse managed, federally qualified health center in North Philadelphia. In addition to improving the health status of community residents, the center serves as a site for research, education and practice for the college’s faculty and students.

Dr. Gerrity completed a prestigious three-year fellowship through the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program where she conducted a leadership project to expand the health center into a healthy living center with a strong community-based health promotion component.

From 1998-2000 she served as a fellow at the International Center for Health Leadership Development at Dartmouth Medical School, she developed expertise in both interdisciplinary teaching and research in quality improvement.

Dr. Gerrity earned a PhD in Health Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of City and Regional Planning; a Master of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing in 1995, she was named an “Edge Runner” by the Academy in 2008.

Patricia Gerrity, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate Dean for Community Programs
Drexel University College of Nursing & Health Professions
Director
Eleventh Street Family Health Services of Drexel University

From 1998-2000 she served as a fellow at the International Center for Health Leadership Development at Dartmouth Medical School, she explored the redirection of health professions education and health services through academic-community partnerships for health. A co-founder of the National Nursing Centers Consortium, she served as both a grant reviewer and consultant for nurse-managed health centers initiatives. As a result of her eight-year affiliation with the Health Care Improvement Leadership Development Center at Dartmouth Medical School, she developed expertise in both interdisciplinary teaching and research in quality improvement.

Dr. Gerrity earned a PhD in Health Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of City and Regional Planning; a Master of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing in 1995, she was named an “Edge Runner” by the Academy in 2008.
Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer  
National League for Nursing  

Beverly Malone began her nursing career with a first degree in Nursing from the University of Cincinnati in 1970. She combined further study with clinical practice, earned a master’s in Psychiatric Nursing and received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1981.

Her career has mixed policy, education, administration and clinical practice. Dr. Malone has worked as a surgical staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist, director of nursing, and assistant administrator of nursing. During the 1980s she was dean of the School of Nursing at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. In 1996 she was elected for two terms as president of the American Nurses Association (ANA), representing 180,000 nurses in the U.S. In 2000, she became deputy assistant secretary for health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Malone was general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), the United Kingdom’s largest professional union of nurses, from June 2001 – January 2007. Dr Malone was also a member of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). She represented the RCN at the pan-European nursing body, the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), the Commonwealth Nurses Federation, and the International Council of Nurses with the RCN president.

In February 2007, Dr. Malone took up her appointment as chief executive officer of the National League for Nursing in New York. Dedicated to excellence in nursing, the NLN is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education offering faculty development, networking opportunities, testing and assessment, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to its 32,000 individual and 1,200 institutional members. She was ranked #29 on Modern Healthcare’s 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare for 2010.

In addition to her academic and scholarly work, Dr. Waite serves on the Board of Directors for the Southeastern Area Pennsylvania Black Nurses Association; National Attention Deficit Disorder Association; and the Black Women’s Health Alliance. She is also on the editorial board for several professional journals—Perspectives in Psychiatric Care, Nursing Education Perspectives, International Editorial Board: Nursing Education Today, and Journal of Nursing Education and Practice. Dr. Waite will also be inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing later this month, October 15th.

Robert Waite, EdD, APRN, CNS-BC  
Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Academic Integration and Evaluation of Community Programs  
Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions  
Faculty Scholar  
Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation  

Robert Waite, EdD, APRN, CNS-BC is a tenured Associate Professor and serves as the Assistant Dean of Academic Integration and Evaluation of Community Programs at Drexel University. Her nursing career started 23 years ago when she graduated from Widener University with her BSN and in 1993 she was awarded a master’s in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. She also earned a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration-Leadership from Widener University and completed a 2-year post doctoral research fellowship (T32) at the Center for Health Disparities Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Waite’s scholarly clinical research focuses on help-seeking behaviors and treatment engagement with particular interest in depression, adult ADHD, and trauma and adversity among ethnic minority populations. Her research trajectory focuses on understanding these experiences, their affects on health behaviors, and responses in adult populations. She continues to explore behavioral research outcomes that promote early identification and recovery for individuals and families so that services and resources are provided to manage, mitigate, and avoid adverse health outcomes. Motivating and sustaining health behavior changes in minority populations and applying these findings to the practice settings is critical.

Dr. Waite’s educational research targets development of leadership abilities among diverse underrepresented nursing students. She was recently selected as a Macy’s Faculty Scholar by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Given the significance of succession planning in nursing, changes in demographics of our society, and the need for collaboration to improve patient health outcomes, this project will focus on career development for underserved diverse nursing students targeting pertinent areas of leadership development, culturally competent practices for underserved populations, and inter-professional education.
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