Faculty Shortage Conference

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

August, 2008

The Faculty Qualifications Committee members planned and held the “Faculty Shortage: Implications for Regulation” conference on March 26, 2008, in Chicago. There was an overwhelming response to the conference, as registration had to be closed weeks before it was held. There were 200 educators, regulators, and practice administrators present, with attendees coming from 40 states and 2 countries. The participants had an enthusiastic response to the conference and asked for NCSBN to continue collaborating with our education and practice partners through this type of venue. The conference objectives were:

- Examine the regulatory issues that arise when there is public pressure to waive faculty qualifications during the faculty shortage.
- Discuss creative solutions to the faculty shortage that encourage collaboration with practice, regulation, and education.
- Analyze the impact of innovative teaching strategies on patient safety.

The following recurring themes, related to the future of nursing education and considering the faculty shortage, were identified from the table discussions:

- Technology/technology professors
- Use of patient/adjuncts/preceptors in the future
- Collaboration/transdisciplinary
- Mentorship role
- Faculty development
- Simulation
- Professional leadership
- Coaching
- Funding sources – participation by 3rd party payers
- Partnerships (shared faculty/joint appointments)
- Regulations – flexible
- Revisit contact hours
- Focus on clinical reasoning and not diseases
- Innovations
  - Faculty Development
  - Curriculum

The insights from the discussion that day were used to develop our recommendations for future faculty qualifications and roles. Generally the participants were positive about the conference and would like to see NCSBN continue to collaborate with education and practice. Many recommendations for future education conferences were made, and they seemed to center around simulation and innovations in nursing education.