


# WVU NURSING

WINTER 2015



SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI:

IMPROVING  
OUR WORLD—  
One Patient At A Time.

 West Virginia University

# Student Nurses Association provides leadership and opportunities

**The National Student Nurses Association's 63rd Annual Convention was held in Phoenix, Arizona, earlier this year.** With a focus on "New Horizons," members of the WVU Student Nurses Association (WVUSNA) had an opportunity to hear from keynote speakers who discussed the ever-changing field of health care. The conference provided insights into the Healthcare Affordability Act and new ANA Code of Ethics.

The West Virginia University School of Nursing was well represented with 12 students and two advisors from the WVUSNA. We attended the convention to learn more about refocusing nursing in a community setting, thinking ethically and working collaboratively with other medical professionals. Educational sessions included emergency medicine, operating room nursing, leadership, oncology and nursing research, among others. Two students, Philip Mickinac and Jessica Willard, were the WVUSNA representatives to the National House of Delegates where they participated in legislative decisions and voted on the passage of resolutions.

The WVU SNA presented their own resolution titled, "For Increased Inclusion of Complementary and Alternative Medicine for Pain Management in Undergraduate Nursing Curricula." The resolution, authored by Jennifer Mills, Victoria Reiser, Kaitlyn Tizzano, and Joshua Wells, originally focused solely on acupuncture for pain management because Reiser's current research studies the use of an acupuncture protocol — the Seva Stress Relief — for cancer-related symptoms. She and other students believe it is critical to incorporate non-pharmacological methods into pain management strategies in order to enhance the nurse-patient relationship and improve patient quality of life, outcomes and satisfaction.

The submitted resolution proposed increased undergraduate education for acupuncture and awareness on a national scale. Within weeks of the convention, the authors were contacted by the national committee and asked to combine the resolution with one from California that called for increased acupuncture education and awareness. Working "virtually" with our peers, we were able to submit our new collaborative resolution, which passed with more than a 90 percent majority in the House of Delegates.

Legislation was also passed to ensure teams could have smoother collaboration on future resolutions when asked to combine work with others. A special thank-you to Susan



▲ Our School of Nursing students took advantage of the opportunity to represent West Virginia University at the National Student Nurses Association's 63rd Annual Conference where they gained valuable insights into many of today's pressing nursing topics.

Pinto and Gail VanVoorhis for their efforts in helping make this trip a success.

Our new board members have already started planning for next year's convention in Orlando, Florida. Incoming president Jessica Willard will head the resolution team, and incoming Fundraising Vice President Philip Mickinac is working with officers to make the 2016 convention a success. We are also busy planning a host of activities, including socials, fundraisers, and service events for the coming year. The Peer Mentor Program will continue to assist students as they navigate the rigors of nursing school. Our mentoring program chair, Anna Royek, is teaming with leadership studies student Christopher Vance to create a strong first-year mentoring experience. ♡