

APHN FACULTY & STUDENTS ATTEND ACHNE/APHN JOINT MEETING

June 6-8, 2013, four APHN students (Sheri Altepeter, Beth Juarez, Helene Hegge , and Christine Tesch) and two APHN faculty (Dr. Tracy Evanson and Professor Lucy Heintz) from the University of North Dakota Graduate Nursing Department attended the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators (ACHNE) and the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) Joint Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

ACHNE and APHN are two organizations that are committed to excellence in community and public health nursing, education, research and practice. Their mission is to improve the health of populations which includes individuals, families, groups, and communities. They work to protect and promote the health and safety of the public by fostering high public health nursing practice standards.

- **One of our APHN students, Beth Juarez, lives and works in Palmer Alaska and had these comments about the conference:**



“The ACHNE/APHN annual meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina provided an ideal opportunity to learn more about both the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators as well as the Association of Public Health Nurses. I not only attended the educational sessions, but also was present for the annual meeting. I myself became a member of the APHN group at the beginning of the year, but had not become involved to any extent. The annual meeting was an opportunity for me to not only network with other members, but also find out more about and participate in available volunteer opportunities within the organization. Additionally, throughout the conference, I was able to learn more about the role of community health nurse educators; a learning activity which I would not otherwise have engaged in, but proved very enlightening.

I am currently employed as a Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting nurse, a focused application of public health nursing. The conference sessions provided a broader scope of public health nursing education and was a worthwhile refresher on up-to-date research and innovation in public health nursing. However, overall, I was most impressed by a dramatic presentation on the life of Lillian Wald. This presentation was a glimpse into the personal life of America's first public health nurse and it was a great reminder of why we all do what we do.”

- **Another student, Sheri Altepeter, from Crookston, MN had these words to say about attending the ACHNE/APHN Joint Meeting:**

“ I had a great opportunity to attend this conference with Dr. Tracy Evanson, Lucy Heinz and Beth Juarez. As a new member of the Association of Public Health Nursing, I was very impressed by the conference. It is always energizing to be with people from all over the country who have similar interests and passions for Public Health. I was impressed with the number of knowledgeable and energized people attending the conference from so many different states. The conference increased my interested in Public Health Research. I hope to progress in my education so that I can do research in the future.



I enjoyed the keynote, “Giving the Public It’s Due: Improving Outcomes with Evidence-Based PHN Practice, presented by Shawn Kneipp from the University of North Carolina. She talked about fidelity and integrity and what guides us. The ANA Scope and Standards from 2012 include population health priorities, such as identification, implementation and evaluation. Standard number 9 is evidence-based

practice and best current evidence. Conflicts of interest are a problem and resources are dwindling for research.

The ACHNE (2009) Research priorities for PHN include population focused outcomes and the PHN workforce. There is a need for more randomized control trials because there is currently very little evidence regarding PHN interventions. The Affordability Care Act is an opportunity to re-define and expand PHN practice. The David Olds Nurse-Family Partnership is a great example of evidence-based practice.

I am interested in being involved with the need for more evidence for community-wide interventions for increasing physical activity. I became interested in this when working with SHIP, Statewide Health Improvement Programs, in Minnesota.

I attended 14 different sessions and was very impressed by the speakers and their passion for public health education and research. I will use this knowledge in my continued education and hopefully work in research in the future.”