



## **ACNM BOD/Staff response #1 to 2014 Student Report**

Thank you for your poignant and thoughtful Student Report. We respect your opinions and are excited about working with you in making the College a place where students feel both supported and welcomed. We will respond to the seven sections in your report below. We sincerely appreciate your heartfelt suggestions for optimizing midwifery education and opportunities for new midwives.

### **Diversification and Inclusion:**

These issues were reviewed by the Diversification and Inclusion Task Force. A “Report on Diversity & Inclusion,” prepared by Greater Good Consulting, LLC, was provided to the Board of Directors and discussed in depth at the September BOD meeting. The BOD is committed to developing, with consultation assistance, a detailed strategy to increase diversity and inclusion within ACNM. ACME and the ACNM Membership Department will gather detailed trend data regarding demographics of the student body and the ACNM membership. The other issues raised in the student report will now be reviewed in greater detail by the D & I Task Force and more information will be given at the December BOD meeting. Directors of Midwifery Education (DOME) will discuss issues of student recruitment and midwifery curricula at their meeting in October.

### **Curriculum: Primary Care and Online Learning:**

The issues raised in this section will be discussed by DOME and ACME at their October meetings. They are aware of the students concerns and will respond after these meetings.

### **Preceptors/Clinical Placements:**

The Preceptor Development and Support Section of the DOE has been asked to respond to these requests by the December BOD meeting.

### **Funding:**

A student webinar is planned for October 22, 2014, that will include information about funding. The ACNM federal lobbyist and several staff members work to assure funding for midwifery education. In recent months, ACNM has signed onto several coalition letters regarding funding for nursing education programs, onto joint testimony submitted by the Nursing Committee to the Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee in support of Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, and onto a joint thank you letter to members of the House and Senate who put together a Dear Colleague letter in support of Title VIII programs. In June, we enlisted

19 other organizations from the Nursing Community to sign onto a letter supporting H.R. 4385, which will identify maternity shortage areas and if successful, will open up more jobs for midwives and require the education of many more midwives. In July, ACNM and several other APRN groups met with OMB specifically to press the administration to continue to fund nursing education programs.

The A.C.N.M. Foundation (A.C.N.M.F.) gave more than \$24,000 to students last year in scholarship funds and this year they are hoping to provide even more. Elaine Moore, president of A.C.N.M.F., was notified of the students' concern for funding. [The Foundation web page](#) summarizes the typically available scholarships. Students wishing to apply for these scholarships must be ACNM members and check the A.C.N.M. Foundation website frequently to apply and obtain the extra funding for school expenses.

### **Student and New Grad Mentorship:**

This issue will be discussed by DOME at their October meeting, and a request has been made for the Midwives of Color Committee (MOCC) to review this and respond by the December BOD meeting. The student e-midwife discussion group has been reinstated and SIS will discuss the creation of venues to connect students within their own colleges as well as survey for recent graduates to mentor the new graduates across the country.

### **Resources for New Grads:**

A presentation by Cara Kinzelman and Jesse Bushman entitled "*Understanding your Practice Environment: Making an informed decision about where to work*" has been uploaded onto the [New Midwives web page](#) under the Finding Employment section (ACNM members only). The student and new grad webpages will continue to be updated and changed as more resources are found and created. A webinar covering this and other topics is planned for October 22.

### **Annual Meeting Programming Needs of Students and New Graduates:**

The student representative to the BOD is a member of the program committee and will be ensuring that the students have an optimal experience at the 2015 annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for the end of June and should avoid graduation date conflicts and enable more students to attend. The student representative will also hold a Webinar before the annual meeting to assist with making the most out of the Annual Meeting.

Once again, thank you for your thoughtful responses. The student representative will give you another update after the December BOD meeting so you can see the progress of your recommendations. Best of luck this semester; we are excited for you to join us in this amazing profession.

Best,  
The ACNM Board of Directors and Staff  
September 2014