



In August 2013, the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) coordinated a Clinical Faculty Academy at Joliet Junior College, Joliet, Illinois. According to Genny Boesen, SMHEC Executive Director, at least 50 new faculty from 10 nursing schools benefitted from participating in this 2-day program. SMHEC has been holding an annual August CFA at one of its member organization facilities for the past five years.

The Clinical Faculty Academy (CFA) is a two-day skill building program that teaches MSN prepared nurses the necessary skills to become clinical educators. The Academy prepares nurses for the challenges of serving as a clinical nurse educator. Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) has contracted with the Health Alliance of MidAmerica for the opportunity to offer this copyrighted material to Illinois nurses.

Three times during the next 12 months nurses will have an opportunity to engage in a learning activity that will prepare them to shape the next generation of nurses:

1. South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC): August 7 & 8, 2013. The program was at Joliet Junior College, <http://www.southmetroed.org/> SMHEC will also be offering the CFA program again on August 6 & 7, 2014.
2. William Rainey Harper College, Palatine, IL: January 10 & 11, 2014, from 7am-5pm. Harper College, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Rm Z119, Palatine, IL 60067; questions call 847-925-6523. <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/academics/areas/health/nursing/>
3. Illinois Central College, Peoria, IL, August 6 & 7, 2014. Illinois Central College is located at 201 SW Adams Street, Peoria, IL 60635-0001 <http://www.icc.edu/healthCareers/nursing.asp>

The Illinois Center for Nursing has successfully supported this program since 2012. The CFA, offers nine education modules that range from pre and post-conference planning to student evaluations. The training materials, based on adult learning theories, have been piloted, critically reviewed and refined. At least 450 Illinois nurse educators have completed the program since it was initially offered in 2008.

The ICN was established in 2006, and is part of an overall strategy to produce more highly skilled nursing professionals, an ongoing effort to ease the nursing shortage and to improve access to quality health care for Illinois families. www.nursing.illinois.gov