



The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) was established in 2006 as part of the Nurse Practice Act and is located within the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR). The INWC has established multiple coalitions with regional, state, and national organizations to address issues of supply and demand in the nursing profession.

One of the goals for this past year included timely release of reports of data collected during license renewal. In 2019 the RN and APRN reports were written and posted on the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center website within one year of data collection. The LPN report will be posted by early 2020. The reports show that we have an aging nursing workforce in Illinois, for example, 52% of RNs are 55 years or older. We also have more nurses of color in the younger age groups. These are but a few details that can be found in the reports – extending back to 2001. For all current and past reports please use this link <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ResearchData.asp>

The INWC partnered with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to survey retention of faculty recipients of the Nurse Educator Fellowship program, FY2007-FY2019. Ninety six percent of the Nurse Educator Fellows responding to the survey are currently employed in nursing education, only 4% are not. This program began in 2007 and has been funded for ten of the past thirteen years. A survey conducted in April 2019 found 114 of the 156 fellows the INWC were able to contact (73%) responded to the survey. This statistic indicates that this program is meeting its intended purpose, i.e., to help ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at Illinois institutions of higher education.

The Nursing Workforce Center, co-lead with ANA-Illinois and the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders (IONL) of the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC) provided outreach for the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) committee on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 for the first of 3 town hall meetings held at Malcolm X College on June 7, 2019. IHAC was well represented by: INWC Chair Dr. Kathy Delaney, Manager Linda B. Roberts; IONL President Dr. Jennifer Grenier; ANA-Illinois President Dan Frackowski, Vice-President Dr. Karen Egeness and EO Dr. Susan Swart. Other organizational leaders: ANA Board member Amanda Buechel; IACN President Dr. Judy Neubrandner; IOADN President Dr. Julie D'Agostino; NAHN-IL President Lupe Hernandez, Past Presidents Dr. Liz Aquino and Susana Gonzalez; State Board of Nursing Chair Dr. Catherine Miller and Nursing Coordinator Michele Bromberg, and many, many others.

The INWC continues to partner with the IHAC Public Health Nurse Leaders Workgroup which has been focusing on and funding academic-practice partnerships. This group, through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) grant was able to fund 10 undergraduate and graduate projects. Three of these projects were showcased in a webinar in August; this webinar, which provides 1 hour of free CE is available on the Illinois Nurses Foundation website. A day of interactive workshops is planned March 12, 2020 at McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois. For those nurses that not able attend, the first two hours will be available through Zoom. The fiscal agent for this grant is the Illinois Nurses Foundation.

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center continues to work with industry professionals and educational institutions to ensure that Illinois has a nursing workforce necessary to meet the demands of a growing and aging population. Visit the INWC website, www.nursing.illinois.gov