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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA Receives Grant to Support Nurses' Cultural Competency
Cultural Competency Program aims to help reduce health care disparities, increase patient satisfaction, and promote human dignity

SILVER SPRING, MD – As frontline health care professionals, registered nurses have a duty to communicate and interact effectively with the rich diversity of all the patients and families they serve. To that end, the American Nurses Association (ANA) is pleased to announce a grant from Pfizer Inc., to launch the ANA Cultural Competency Program. This initiative will compile and disseminate resources to nurses nationwide to raise awareness and build skills as they care for the full complexity of the United States population.

ANA believes that cultural competency is essential to high quality health care because it helps ensure fair and equitable treatment, particularly for individuals at the greatest risk for adverse health and financial consequences.

“It is vital to underscore that our most vulnerable neighbors are simultaneously the hardest hit by bias while being the least able to cope with the associated risks and consequences,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “Clearly, cultural competency is a major responsibility for nurses since it sits right at the nexus of health care and social justice. This program will be an important resource to enable nurses to acquire the requisite knowledge and behaviors to champion a culture of compassion in health care.”

Voted as the most trusted profession in an annual Gallup poll for eight of the past nine years, registered nurses are aptly positioned to build confidence on behalf of patients from all races, ethnicities, religions, demographics, lifestyles and belief systems who may be reticent to ask questions, express opinions and discuss options.

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“Cultural diversity is a great strength in the U.S.; the challenge is that since culture informs patients’ perceptions of illness, health and health care preferences, this necessitates health care professionals to learn each patient’s unique needs,” said Pfizer representative Paula R. DeCola, MSc, RN. “Pfizer appreciates the opportunity to support ANA’s program and shares its commitment to enhancing cultural competency among nurses and within health care systems.”

The ANA Cultural Competency Program will evaluate the existing cultural competency among nurses, and provide additional resources and guidance to enhance nursing practice. A section will be developed on ANA’s Web site, www.NursingWorld.org, dedicated to cultural competency resources, and will include anecdotal accounts of frontline experiences by ANA members.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.