



# Nursing Education Newsletter

Texas Board of Nursing

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## *It's Going to be a Great Year!* *Greetings from the Education Consultants*

***A word from the Editor, Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC (our FROG Expert)***

It is the beginning of the spring semester for most programs and the education consultants felt like it was the perfect time for us to share our thoughts and ideas with our programs through our electronic newsletter.

As mentioned in our September newsletter, our original plan was to produce a quarterly electronic newsletter that would go out the month BEFORE the Board Meetings. When the Education Consultants thought about sending a newsletter out in December, it was quickly seen as not a good idea! December is filled with finals, graduation, and preparing for the holidays with family and friends. The decision was made to instead send you New Year's Greetings and tell you what is planned for the upcoming year so Welcome Back and Happy 2016 from your Texas Board of Nursing Education Consultants. It is going to be a great year!



If you remember . . . It is my goal to **F**ind, **R**eflect, **O**rganize, & **G**enerate news!

If you have any burning questions, please do not hesitate to contact [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov).

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## Nurses: The Most Trusted Professionals!



Nurses have been recognized as the most trusted profession every year since 1999 with the exception of 2001 when firefighters were included because of their heroism during the 9/11 attack on the

## Upcoming Events

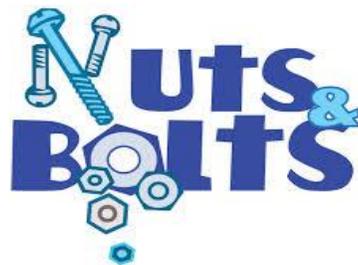
Quarterly Board Meeting  
**The Next Quarterly Board Meeting is April 21-22, 2016 at the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Texas Board of Nursing website under the News heading.**

Deans, Directors and Coordinators Orientation  
**The Texas Board of Nursing Education Department will offer Part II, or the Face-to-Face Session on February 12, 2016. Please contact Jackie Ballesteros for more information at (512) 305-6850**

World Trade Center. Nurses ranked "very high" on the Gallup 2015 Honesty and Ethics of Professional Ratings. This should cause nurses to feel honored and humble. How can nurse educators instill in nursing students the importance of carrying on the profession's strong ideals and respected role?

- By stressing the importance of the professional behaviors in Rule 213.30
- By modeling behaviors of caring to patients, students, and other faculty
- By stopping bullying and negative communications between faculty and students, and among students

Patients are looking for a nurse who respects them, will talk with them, empathize with them, advocate for them, and care for them. The nurse may be the patient's last line of defense. These are valuable nursing skills and no equipment is needed.



Of  
NCLEX®

At the end of October and the end of January, Jan's office grows with paper as she starts the process of developing the NCLEX Program Summary Reports. This photo was taken just as she was finishing the RN Program reports. The reports then go out to Program Directors for their close review of student names. When students register under the wrong program code, their NCLEX results show up under that nursing program's report.



I hope this visual will give you an idea of what must be done in order to make this happen. Please note that she always has a smile on her face.

Here is the NCLEX® Time Lines and Details of what is happening at the BON to make this happen:

<b>Process</b>	<b>RN Pass Rates</b>	<b>VN Pass Rates</b>
Examination Year	October 1 through September 30	January 1 through December 31
Candidates	First-Time Test Takers No Repeaters	First-Time Test Takers No Repeaters
Final Data Available from NCSBN	Late October	Late January
	<b>Step 1</b>	Program Summary Reports downloaded
	<b>Step 2</b>	Pass rates verified including out-of-state candidates
	<b>Step 3</b>	Board Staff prepare table of programs' pass rates
	<b>Step 4</b>	NCLEX® information and Program Summary Reports (student names) forwarded to Program Directors – approximately end of October
	<b>Step 5</b>	Program Director reviews all candidate names to ensure candidate names are correct and reports errors to Board Staff no later than December 1
	<b>Step 6</b>	Board Staff investigate possible errors in candidate names
	<b>Step 7</b>	Corrections are made for final pass rate report
	<b>Step 8</b>	Board Report prepared for January Board meeting
	<b>Step 9</b>	NCLEX® pass rates posted on BON web page following January Board meeting
	<b>Step 10</b>	Board letters related to change in approval status or required Self-Study Reports to Program Directors late January

**Note:** Board Staff no longer provide quarterly NCLEX® reports for two reasons:

- They only provide a slice of the year's pass rate and are misleading.
- The time and resources required for this activity are prohibitive.
- Board Staff are available to provide tentative information to programs in jeopardy.

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## A Great Resource for Faculty and Students!



### The NCSBN Learning Extension

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) provides educational offerings in an e-learning format for both nursing faculty and nursing students. To examine the learning opportunities developed by national nursing experts for NCSBN, select <https://learningext.com/>.

The following courses are designed to empower nurse educators:

- 1) Test Development and Item Writing
- 2) Assessment of Critical Thinking
- 3) Understanding the NCLEX-A Guide for Nursing Educators

Students may benefit from NCLEX reviews with comprehensive nursing content organized according to the latest NCLEX Test Plans. The review is comprised of NCLEX-style questions, diagnostic pretests, study groups, and discussion forums. Further, a new **Ask the Instructor** tool is available.

The NCLEX-RN Review is accessible at <https://learningext.com/students/p/nclex-rn.aspx>.

The NCLEX-PN Review is offered at <https://learningext.com/students/p/nclex-pn.aspx>.

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## Update on Concept-Based Curriculum Pilot Project

At the January 2016 Board meeting, a comprehensive review of the Innovative Pilot Project outcomes was presented in Agenda Item 3.2.9. This document is accessible from the Board website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov), by selecting **News**, then **Meetings**.

During the January 2013 Board meeting, the Innovative Pilot Project, "Using a Concept-Based Instruction Approach Among a Group of Associate Degree Nursing Education Programs", was approved and has now graduated the first cohorts of students taught using the concept-based instruction approach. For the 2015 NCLEX-RN examination year, all but one program met the state benchmark of 80% of first-time NCLEX-RN candidates achieving a passing score on the NCLEX-RN examination. Extensive curriculum assistance was developed as part of the project and is available to all programs desiring to use the Texas Concept-Based Curriculum.

The Project Director reported satisfaction with the overall outcome of the project. A significant impact from the magnitude of this effort was the effect on faculty as they were introduced to concept-based teaching methodologies. One lesson learned is that resources, time, and exposure for faculty development are essential to the success of any program that adopts a concept-based curriculum. Since the pilot project began, an additional nine associate degree programs have adopted the Texas Concept-Based Curriculum model and will graduate initial cohorts over the next 18 months.

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### For Recognition of Greatness

#### The Person on the Other Side of the Emails



Program Directors and faculty see Jackie's name frequently in correspondences from the BON. She serves as Administrative Assistant to the Education and Practice nursing consultants. Her many jobs include providing information to all nursing programs, developing online surveys and questionnaires to programs, and answering phone calls and email questions related to practice and education. She has an intuitive ability to anticipate the needs of the consultants before they mention them. Thank you, Jackie, for your efficiency.



## For Recognition of Greatness

It is with sadness that we say Good-bye to Sandi and wish her the best



Sandi Emerson has resigned after three years as an Education Consultant at the BON. The Board recognizes the excellence of her work and commitment during her tenure.



Included is a picture of Sandi as a new nursing graduate. Her years of experience as a nurse educator and dean for two nursing programs have served her well in her position at the BON.



## For Recognition of Greatness

Welcome to Susan Lee, PhD, RN



**Dr. Lee became the newest Nursing Consultant for Education on Monday, December 14th, 2015.**

Susan earned a diploma in nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, both a BSN and an MSN from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and a PhD in nursing from Texas Women's University in Denton. She has teaching experience in associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs. Before joining our staff she was a Clinical Associate Professor at St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University in Round Rock. Her research interest is the experience of homeless Vietnam Veterans in relation to health care services. We are so thrilled to have her on our team and equally thrilled that she has the opportunity to be mentored by Sandi before she fully retires.

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## What Happens When a Complaint about a Nursing Program is Received by the BON ???

All complaints received in the Board office are taken seriously. Complaints related to nursing education programs are delivered to the Education Consultants. Anonymous complaints cannot be adequately processed, but signed complaints are acknowledged and considered. The name of the complainant remains confidential, but the nature of the complaint is relayed to the Program Director. Complaints that suggest a violation of the education or practice rules are taken more seriously and may be forwarded to the Enforcement Department for possible discipline. Complaints related to grades, policies, faculty-student interaction are considered to be program issues, not under the purview of the Board. The Education Consultants encourage the complaining student or faculty to follow school or program policies and chain-of-command processes to resolve issues. Program Directors are invited to provide a response to a complaint. When a complaint is resolved, it is not maintained in the program file.

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## Mark Your Calendar NCLEX® Regional Workshop!



Friday April 1, 2016

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

J.J. Pickle Research Campus:

Commons Learning Center

10100 Burnet Road – Commons Building  
#137

Austin, TX 78758

(between U.S. 183 and Braker Lane)

NCSBN Examinations department content staff, in conjunction with the Texas Board of Nursing education staff, will conduct a one-day, board of nursing-sponsored regional workshop for the purpose of providing information to educators who prepare students to take the NCLEX® examination.

### *Workshop objectives include:*

- Identifying the NCSBN practice analysis process and explaining how the results are used to update NCLEX test plans;
- Illustrating basic principles of computer adaptive testing and describing standard setting;
- Explaining the steps of the NCLEX item development process;
- Identifying NCLEX alternate item formats;
- Demonstrating and applying principles of item writing; and
- Identifying the use and application of NCLEX® Program Reports and Candidate Performance Reports by nursing education programs.

Registration information, as well as an agenda for the day, will be forthcoming.

## 2016: Year for Program Certificates of Board Approval

Did you know. . .



2016 is the Year for Program Certificates to be sent **AFTER April Board Meeting**



Rules 214 and 215 require a biennial ongoing approval process. Board-approved nursing programs will all receive BON-approval certificates **following the April Board meeting**. Please watch for the certificates and do not throw them away because the next one will not be sent until 2018. Programs with all levels of ongoing approval are considered approved and will receive a certificate (suitable for framing).

## Special Request



*Thank you to all program directors who have submitted a picture of themselves for our Program Directors Directory. It is so nice to have a visual of you all when you email or call. For those of you who have not sent us your picture, it is NOT too late. Please send them to either your program director or to my attention at [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov). I will see that they are uploaded to our files.*

## Did you make a New Year's Resolution to Exercise more in 2016?



Many of the BON staff are participating in GetFitTexas and are hoping that you too have made a commitment to exercise more this year. We would be interested in knowing what you are doing at your schools to stay healthy.

### Contact Us

Education Questions  
(512) 305-6816

Education FAQs

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