The Washington Center for Nursing: A Brief History

**2001**
WA nursing leaders, legislators, and other stakeholders concerned about the nursing workforce gathered to hear from national experts about the nursing shortage. At the meeting, a task force volunteered to draft the first-ever strategic plan for nursing and bring it back to the larger group.

**2002**
The Washington State Strategic Plan for Nursing (WSSPN) is adopted by the Washington Nursing Leadership Council (WNLC – composed of CNEWS, NWONE, NCQAC, WLN, WSNA). Goal #5 identifies the need to create a Center for Nursing to focus on nursing resources, education and workforce issues.

**2003**
WCN is established as a private nonprofit charitable corporation (not a state agency).

**2004**
Executive Director hired, 501(c)(3) nonprofit status obtained, Strategic Business Plan created.

**2005**
Board of Directors expanded to 15 members with participation from across the state and multiple venues where nurses practice.

- WCN joined the National Nursing Workforce Centers Forum, which has membership of >35 state centers.
- SB5599 passed, authorizing the Department of Health to collect a $5 surcharge from every new and renewing RN and LPN license, for the purpose of funding a grant to a “nursing resource center.”
- WCN was awarded grant N14101 with specific deliverables due each year. Deliverables:
  - Educate the public including K-12 about opportunities and careers in nursing
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education in the state and make recommendations
  - Build the database about the nursing workforce in our state; establish regular monitoring of key measures
  - Monitor the applicant pool for programs of nursing
  - Facilitate partnerships between the many entities in our state to promote diversity
  - Enhance nursing career mobility and nursing leadership development
  - Provide consultation, technical assistance, data and information on WA & national nursing resources
  - Promote strategies to enhance patient safety and quality patient care including a safe and healthy workplace environment for nurses.

**2006**
- WCN co-sponsored the National Nursing Workforce conference with the Oregon Center for Nursing
- First of 3 Johnson & Johnson “Promise of Nursing for Washington” galas held. $525,000 raised for nursing scholarships, faculty fellowships to teach nursing, and nursing school capacity expansion grants.
- WCN Strategic Business Plan & original WA State Strategic Plan for Nursing merged, creating a single plan for the state.

**2007**
- “The Experience of Minority/Underrepresented New Graduate RNs” study published
- “RN Supply and Demand through 2025” study published

**2008**
- “Master Plan for Nursing Education in Washington State” accepted by Department of Health
- “RN Licensing Data Analysis” published
- WCN helped fund the Rural Outreach Nursing Education program development

_Updated July 2014_
- “LPN Licensing Data Analysis” & “LPN Supply & Demand through 2026” published
- “ARNP Workforce Analysis” published
- “Preliminary Report on Nursing Faculty Workload” published
- Second Johnson & Johnson “Promise of Nursing for Washington” gala raised >$300,000
- Master Plan for Nursing Education Implementation Recommendations submitted to DOH
- WCN leads statewide team selected by the Campaign to Champion Nursing (a collaborative effort between Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP) to address nursing education in our state

2010
- Implementation work on Diversity, Transition to Practice, and Faculty work-life issues advanced
- Stakeholder meetings held across the state to study the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for nurses
- $110,000 awarded to five Nursing Education programs in WA for capacity expansion
- $40,000 awarded by Johnson & Johnson for Diversity Leader position
- Statewide webinar on the “Impact of the IOM Recommendations on Nursing”

2011
- Leadership education for nurse educators initiated
- WCN selected by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to co-lead the Institute of Medicine work in WA
- RN, LPN, ARNP “Snapshots” updated; “RN Supply & Demand through 2031” published
- “Employment Experience of Newly Licensed RNs” study published
- Statewide Institute of Medicine “Advancing Nursing’s Future” conference sponsored

2012
- Diversity Network Director hired to develop Minority Nurse Mentoring Program
- $300,000 Academic Progression in Nursing grant awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Third Johnson & Johnson Promise of Nursing for WA Gala raised ~$200,000
- Progress on seamless academic progression in nursing via the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) and collaboration with the Curriculum Innovations Workgroup
- Secretary of Health affirms contract compliance & success by WCN; recommends surcharge renewal to legislature

2013
- Legislature renews surcharge bill without sunset clause
- Statewide ITV conference on concept-based curriculum as method to accomplish shared competencies
- Safe Table Forums in Spokane and Tukwila: “Barriers and incentives to earning a BSN”
- Statewide ITV “Town Hall Meeting: Academic Progression in Nursing”
- Distributed $4,000 program development grants to new RN-BSN programs (Bellevue College, Western Washington University, St. Martin’s University, Wenatchee Valley College)
- Direct Transfer Agreement for nursing proposal approved by the Washington Joint Transfer Council; State Board of Community and Technical Colleges Articulation & Transfer Council, SBCTC Instruction Commission
- Year-long Diversity Mentoring Program pilot launched
- “Increasing the Diversity of Washington State’s Nursing Workforce: Barriers and Supports in the K-12 and Higher Education Systems” published

2014
- Community and technical college system and four-year universities sign landmark Nursing Direct Transfer Agreement to create a shorter, smoother process for students to achieve BSN degree
- Second $300,000 Academic Progression in Nursing grant awarded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- “Master Plan for Nursing Education 5 year status” published