

## 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

- 2009
  - “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