

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AACN Position Statement: Academic Progression in Nursing: Moving Together Toward a Highly Educated Nursing Workforce

About the Position Statement

- x In July 2016, the AACN Board of Directors created the Academic Progression Task Force to consider models for academic progression in light of workforce needs with an emphasis on maintaining high quality standards in academic programs. The task force was charged with creating a position statement that articulates AACN's commitment to creating a more highly educated nursing workforce and answering the Institute of Medicine's call for increasing the number of baccalaureate prepared registered nurses

- x The statement outlines AACN's position that academic progression from associate degree and diploma programs should end in a program leading to a baccalaureate degree (or entry level master's degree) offered by an accredited four-year college or university.

- x A footnote clarifying that "four-year college or university" includes those programs at member schools that the baccalaureate fall into more than a dozen categories, which could be confusing for legislators, students, the public and other stakeholders

- x The new position statement provides added support for member schools in states moving to offer community college based baccalaureate programs, which could impact limited resources (funding, faculty, clinical placements, etc.). Without this statement, schools do not have official language from AACN to support the position that academic progression initiatives that culminate in baccalaureate degrees be offered by four-year colleges and universities.

- x This new statement does not replace AACN's longstanding position titled The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing as Minimal Preparation for Professional Practice (2000). We strongly believe that registered nurses should enter the profession with a baccalaureate degree and encourage all nurses to advance their education to better serve