SREB

A 50-Year Legacy

Southern Regional Education Board

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Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

A 50-Year Legacy

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) celebrated its 50th anniversary at the 1998 board meeting in Chapel Hill, N.C. Governors, legislators and educators reflected on the remarkable progress of the South and recommitted themselves to focused, long-term educa-tional investments and improvements. This document summarizes the legacy of nursing education with SREB.

The South Organizes for Development and Reform

After World War II, an expanding industrial economy called for more highly trained manpower and the increasing number of college students required more and better schools. The Southern governors agreed that the region sorely needed to improve its graduate and professional education, but that the goals they had in mind could not be reached on a state-by-state basis. "They wished to see the South look at its needs, identify the facilities required to meet those needs, and then create the needed facilities without needless duplication. They set an ideal of cooperation among the states and universities rather than excessive competition." (Reitt, 1987, p. 10).

Having reached agreement on the basic idea at their 1947 meeting in Asheville, N.C., the governors signed a formal compact for the advancement of education — the nation's first interstate compact for the advancement of education — in early 1948 in Wakulla Springs, Fla. A temporary corporation, the Regional Council for Education, was established to begin work while the proposed compact was brought before state legislatures for approval. By June 1949, 16 states — Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia — had formally approved the plan and The Southern Regional Education Board was officially established.

From the outset, the governors were concerned about the region's public services. In 1948, the Regional Council for Education appointed a Commission on Medical and Related Training to gather information on enrollments in Southern colleges and universities, operating expenses, possible and planned expansion and likely costs. M.E.L. Carnegie (Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fla.) and Frances Helen Zeigler (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.) represented nursing education. A subcommittee of the commission, with Zeigler as chairwoman, studied the needs of nursing. In a report, titled *Nursing* *Education, Needs and Facilities,* the subcommittee recommended that the Southern states establish at least one professional school of nursing in each state and develop graduate programs at a few regional centers. The Regional Council took no immediate action. Too much, it argued, still needed to be accomplished within the individual states.

Southern Nurses Press for Regional Action _____

Undeterred by SREB's initial decision to await further development of nursing education within the separate states before launching regional programs, representatives of state nursing leagues organized a regional organization. On Nov. 11, 1950, the Southern Regional Conference of State Leagues of Nursing Education asked SREB to appoint a commission on nursing education and to employ a full-time staff member who would assemble data on nursing education. These nursing leaders foresaw the value of regional action; their efforts lay the groundwork for what would eventually become the Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing.

SREB Appoints Committee on Nursing Education _____

In 1951, SREB appointed a committee on nursing education to assess regional needs for expansion and improvement of nursing education programs and to propose sound and practical means to meet identified regional needs. Elizabeth L. Kemble, dean of the University of North Carolina School of Nursing, chaired the group. The committee held its first meeting on Oct. 9-10, 1951, at SREB headquarters in Atlanta. Representatives from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund and the Rockefeller Foundation attended as observers.

Significant Regional Problems Identified _____

The committee on nursing education identified the most significant regional problem in nursing: the lack of adequately prepared instructors, supervisors and administrators. It recommended that the region focus on solving this problem. In mid-April 1952, deans of 22 schools of nursing in the South met for several days. They reviewed the recommendations of the SREB committee on nursing education, studied information about baccalaureate nursing programs assembled by SREB staff and grappled with the thorny issues implicit in the development of new graduate programs.

The deans concurred with an earlier recommendation: employment of a staff member to research the feasibility of establishing new master's programs and to direct the eventual development. They also agreed that external funding was needed to support the proposed efforts. The deans were intent on moving ahead. Cooperation among the region's collegiate nursing schools was well launched.

Committee members at Oct. 9-10, 1951 meeting

- Elizabeth L. Kemble, dean, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- M. E. L. Carnegie, dean, School of Nursing Education, Florida A&M College, Tallahassee, Fla.
- Marion E. Carpenter, executive secretary, State Board of Nursing Examiners, Little Rock, Ark.
- Alma Gault, director of Nursing Education, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.
- J. P. Herron, State Health Officer, State Health Department, Little Rock, Ark.
- Dana Hudson, director, School of Nursing, Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.
- Sybil MacLean, dean, School of Nursing, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
- S. Walter Martin, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
- Rita Miller, chairman, Division of Nursing, Dillard University, New Orleans, La.
- Christine Oglevee, chairman, Department of Nursing, University of Mississippi, University, Miss.
- Marion Sheehan, director of programs, National Committee for Improvement of Nursing Services, New York, N.Y.
- Clyde L. Sibley, administrator, Baptist Hospital, Birmingham, Ala.
- Mary Price Smith, director, School of Nursing, Dallas Methodist Hospital, Dallas, Texas
- Carrie Spurgeon, executive secretary, State Board of Nursing Examiners, New Orleans, La.
- Florence K. Wilson, dean, School of Nursing, Duke University, Durham, N.C.

SREB Hires Consultant on Nursing Education ____

In June 1952, SREB responded positively to one request by hiring Genevieve K. Bixler as the SREB consultant on nursing education. Bixler was a consultant to the Western Reserve University School of Nursing, having formerly served on the faculty at Columbia University. She was also a member of the advisory committee on nursing for the Kellogg Foundation and a member of the board of directors of the National League for Nursing Education. Bixler promptly converted the criteria developed during the April sessions into a questionnaire to find out if universities were interested in establishing a new master's program and to assess the resources for establishing a regional research center. Eleven institutions expressed interest in developing a master's program; seven were interested in establishing a research center. Bixler visited each institution and reported her findings at the second meeting of the deans (Oct. 10, 1952). She recommended that five universities — the University of Alabama, the University of Maryland, the University of North Carolina, the University of Texas and Vanderbilt University — cooperatively plan new master's programs. Bixler also recommended that the University of North Carolina be considered as the site for the research center. The deans approved her recommendations with the understanding that other schools might be included if they met the criteria. Emory University became the sixth institution.

SREB Endorses Regional Plan ____

At its annual meeting on Nov. 17, 1952, SREB voted unanimously to endorse "the steps taken by the collegiate schools of the region in developing master's degree programs for nursing instructors and supervisors and in establishing a research service which will be of aid to all the schools. The Board looks forward to the opportunity of executing a memorandum of agreement with the universities involved." (McGlothlin, 1953, p. 10).

With SREB approval official, the six deans began to work on a regional program: Majorie Bartholf (University of Texas); Ada Fort (Emory University); Florence M. Gipe (University of Maryland); Julia Herford (Vanderbilt University); Florence A. Hixson (University of Alabama); Elizabeth L. Kemble (University of North Carolina). They met regularly, beginning in Nov. 1952, and developed a system of designating program emphases or specialization for each school, an approach that would prevent wasteful duplication. Funding negotiations among the school officials, SREB staff and foundation officers proceeded during 1952 and 1953. Funded jointly by the Kellogg Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund in 1953, the project — known as the Regional Project in Graduate Education and Research in Nursing — continued for five years. The committee of deans became the regional committee on graduate education and research in nursing. The creation of six new graduate-level programs for the region was a noteworthy achievement. Their cooperative development, which included all collegiate nursing programs in the region and not just the six sponsoring universities, was unprecedented.

Although the project concentrated on the creation of new programs, it also provided opportunities for the leaders of these programs to work cooperatively on issues of mutual concern. The project created more than six new master's programs. It also created the precursor of the SREB Council by instituting the conference series for deans. In retrospect, one can see outlined in this early project the shape of the Council to come:

- Deans and directors of nursing programs were meeting regularly to discuss substantive issues among themselves.
- Various types and levels of nursing programs were gradually being absorbed into the group's work and plans.
- The representatives of different types of programs were forming coherent subgroups within the larger inclusive group.
- The focus was on collaborative regional planning, not only among individual programs but also among types and levels of programs.

Deans Press for Second Regional Project ____

Before the final general conference in March 1959, pressure was building in the region to find a way to continue regional activities in nursing education. There was widespread agreement that the South's first regional nursing project should not be its last. Project leaders discussed various possibilities and sought funding to support the proposed activities. SREB learned in Sept. 1961 that the Kellogg Foundation had approved the grant proposal to help nursing schools of the South respond to new developments in higher education emphasizing three concerns: personnel needs, research, coordinated action. The foundation provided two-thirds of the needed funding; SREB supplemented the foundation funds. On January 5, 1962, SREB announced the appointment of Helen Belcher, a research associate in the Division of Nursing (U.S. Public Health Service), to direct the new project.

Belcher met in May 1962 with an ad hoc committee of the nursing education leaders of the region to begin planning activities for the new project. The committee included representatives from all three levels of collegiate nursing education — graduate, baccalaureate and associate degree programs: Georgeen Harriet DeChow (Manatee Junior College, Fla.); Florence Gipe (University of Maryland); Elizabeth Kemble (University of North Carolina); Ruth Neil Murray (University of Tennessee); Faye Pannell (Texas Woman's University); and Doris B. Yingling (Medical College of Virginia).

The first question facing this group was whether the new project should include all 65 institutions in the region offering nursing education at all three levels — associate, baccalaureate and master's. The ad hoc committee agreed that inclusion of all would be best. It also recommended that a continuing group of representatives from all schools of nursing participate in project activities. Without using a name for such a body, the ad hoc committee clearly envisioned the formation of the group that would evolve into the Nursing Council.

Three members of the ad hoc committee — DeChow, Fort, Murry — plus Marcia A. Dake (University of Kentucky), Sister Henrietta Guyot (Louisiana State University), and Alice E. Smith (Columbia Union College) planned a conference of the nursing leaders of all collegiate programs. They identified five topics for discussion at the 1962 conference: faculty for schools of nursing, a regional plan for nursing, differentiating the characteristics of graduate of various levels of nursing programs, new teaching techniques and nursing research. Attendance at the Oct. 17-19, 1962 meeting was reassuring: 65 of the 69 collegiate nursing programs had a representative at the meeting.

A Legacy of Nursing Leadership in SREB States _



Nursing education has been an SREB priority for almost 50 years. Attending a 1955 meeting were, left to right: Genevieve Bixler, SREB project director; Ada Fort, dean, Emory University School of Nursing; Florence Gipe, dean, University of Maryland School of Nursing; Majorie Bartholf, dean, University of Texas School of Nursing; Julie Hereford, dean, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing; and Florence Hixson, dean, University of Alabama School of Nursing.

The decisions made at this initial conference were important because of their long-term impact on the work of the Council. Those attending the 1962 meeting made it apparent that they supported the project and wished to remain involved personally in its work. They were not interested in sending delegates to future meetings or having regional work proceed as demonstration projects mounted at a handful of schools. The deans and directors of collegiate nursing programs in the South wished to be directly active at the regional level on behalf of nursing education.

The need for a formal communication network among the institutions and between SREB and the institutions prompted the formation of the SREB Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing. The Council's name was deliberately chosen because the nurse educators, and SREB, wanted to avoid a name that lent itself to an acronym and could lead to an organization of individual nurses. (The addition of Southern to the name did not alter this underlying premise about membership. In 1998, the Council returned to its former name to conform to changes in the SREB corporate image.)

An advisory council — consisting of people who had participated on previous committees (Dake, DeChow, Fort, Guyot, Murry, Pannell, and Smith) and one newcomer, Helen Miller (North Carolina College at Durham) — began to plan the project's work. The structural center of the Council was its steering committee six to nine people appointed annually by staff to advise staff on all aspects of the project and to plan and conduct Council meetings.

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1963, 54 deans and directors of collegiate nursing programs held its official meeting of the Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing in Clearwater, Florida. The nurse educators and three invited guests — A. J. Brumbaugh, SREB consultant to educational planning; Lucile Petry Leone, chief nurse of the U.S. Public Health Service and Inez Hayes, general director of the National League for Nursing — spent three days discussing plans for collegiate programs in the South.

Regional Projects ____

- Preparing Graduates for Entry-Level Positions as School Nurses (1998-2000)
- Preparing Faculty for the Nursing Information Environments in Health Care (1996-97)
- W. K. Kellogg Faculty Family Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program (1995-98)
- Faculty Development for Graduate Nurse Educators (1992-95)
- Faculty Preparation for Teaching Gerontological Nursing (1989-92)
- Continuing Education for Computer Technology (1985-90)
- Faculty Development for Associate Degree Nursing Education (1982-85)
- Regional Action for Continuing Education in Nursing (1980-83)
- Faculty Development in Nursing Education (1977-82)
- Nursing Research Development in the South (1977-80)
- Regional Action to Implement Curricular Change in Nursing Education (1976-82)
- Nursing Curriculum Project (1972-75)
- Increasing Opportunities for Disadvantaged in Nursing (1972-75)

The Council Maintains Stability in the Face of Change _____

The Council passed through three phases: an advisory council for two SREB projects, transition into an SREB affiliate and a self-supporting membership organization. The first phase lasted 10 years — 1962-72. The Council assumed an unanticipated importance in the eyes of participants. They believed its work should continue, even if the projects of which it was a part did not. That was the mandate for the project initiated in 1972 with a new project director — Audrey F. Spector, former continuing education coordinator for the American Nurses Association, and that is, in fact the job it had completed by 1975. The Council transformed itself during the second phase, funded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare from 1972 to 1975.

In 1975, the Council launched its third phase as a self-supporting membership organization affiliated with SREB. Two new documents ---a Memorandum of Agreement with SREB and bylaws — shaped how the Council would function. The pattern established in the early years for all collegiate nursing programs to participate fully in regional planning, and to participate on an institutional, not individual, basis continued. It remained centered in offices at SREB headquarters in Atlanta, administered by a staff consisting of an executive director and a secretary. Spector served as the Council's first executive director until her retirement in 1989. Eula Aiken, a project director of several SREB nursing projects (1972-75 and 1977-89), assumed this position in 1990. The year 1975 marked

the Council's independence as a self-supporting organization affiliated with the Southern Regional Education Board; the activities since are benchmarks of cooperative regional planning that characterized the Council's origins.

The Work of the Council

Council leaders have planned and directed its work based on principles that have remained the same throughout its existence. They have avoided undertakings that do not have a clear regional focus. Further, they have preferred activities that would involve people and institutions from several states and that would elicit wide participation.

Because the Council cannot respond to every need that arises among the region's nursing programs, it has had to base its choices on clearly defined priorities. In the beginning (1963-1972), the priorities were shaped in the proposals submitted for funding: graduate education, planning nursing education, research, new teaching media, statewide planning, continuing education. When the Council became self-supporting, the leaders selected areas for emphasis and appointed standing or ad hoc committees to plan projects and activities.

In 1981, the Council's executive committee (the governing body) established six priorities for Council action: increase the number of nurses prepared at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, with special emphasis on minorities; continue and expand research activities and programs, with emphasis on collaboration across institutional and state lines; increase career mobility opportunities; develop collaborative relationships between nursing education and service; promote and support faculty development activities, evaluate trends in graduate nursing education. These themes are evident in the subsequent strategic plans developed in the 90s.

Perhaps, the key to the Council's effectiveness is its unswerving focus in all of its meetings. Regardless of the theme or topic, each meeting addresses two questions: What are the needs of the schools that are members of the Council? What can the Council do to meet these needs? Many of the deans and directors say that the Council is a source of assistance, information and inspiration that matches their special concerns. The 1951 meeting was the beginning of a tradition that continues today. The Council has taken the amorphous bonds of regional and professional loyalty and put them to active use.

Collegiate nursing education in the South has changed dramatically since 1950. At mid-century the South had 282 schools preparing women for RN licensure; only 24 institutions offered the baccalaureate degree. Of these 24, 13 were located in three states: Texas, Tennessee and Virginia (McGlothlin, 1953). Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma had no collegiate nursing programs. Only two schools offered graduate education for nurses: University of Texas and University of North Carolina.

Today, the South has 516 collegiate and 24 diploma nursing programs preparing people for RN licensure.¹ It has progressed from six master's

¹ National League for Nursing. 1997 Nursing Data Review. New York: National League for Nursing, 1997.

programs in 1953 to 103 master's and 28 doctoral programs in 1999. In 1949, more than half of the South's nurse educators did not hold the baccalaureate degree. A master's in nursing is the minimal requirement today. Students enrolled in the nursing programs today have a far more sophisticated education than was available to their predecessors in the 1940s and 1950s.

The Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing



Marie O'Koren Dean, School of Nursing University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, Ala.) Chair (1972-79)



Sylvia E. Hart Dean, College of Nursing University of Tennessee (Knoxville, Tenn.) Chair (1979-82)



Peggy Ledbetter Dean, School of Nursing Northwestern State University (Shreveport, La.) Chair (1982-84)



Dorothy M. Damewood Dean, School of Nursing University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston, Texas) Chair (1984-85)



Cora S. Balmat Chair, Division of Nursing Alcorn State University (Natchez, Miss.) Chair (1985-88)



Beverly Malone Dean, School of Nursing North Carolina A&T University (Greensboro, N.C.) Chair (1988-89)



Amanda S. Baker Dean, College of Nursing University of South Alabama (Mobile, Ala.) Chair (1989-91)



Charlotte Warren Associate Dean, School of Nursing Georgia State University (Atlanta, Ga.) Chair (1991-92)



Mary Hazzard Head, Department of Nursing Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green, Ky.) President (1993-95)



Vickie Lambert Dean, School of Nursing Medical College of Georgia (Augusta, Ga.) President (1995-97)



Rachel Z. Booth Dean, School of Nursing University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, Ala.) President (1992-93, 1997-99)



Phyllis Horns Dean, School of Nursing East Carolina University (Greenville, N.C.) President (1999-2001)

	Associate	Baccalaureate	Master's	Doctoral	Diploma
Alabama	23	13	6	1	0
Arkansas	11	9	3	1	2
Delaware	4	2	2	0	1
D.C.	1	4	3	1	0
Florida	26	13	9	3	1
Georgia	20	13	10	3	0
Kentucky	25	10	8	1	0
Lousiana	9	13	6	1	1
Maryland	14	7	5	2	2
Mississippi	16	7	5	1	0
North Carolina	47	12	6	1	3
Oklahoma	17	11	2	0	0
South Carolina	13	8	3	1	0
Tennessee	14	18	6	3	4
Texas	49	26	17	6	2
Virginia	17	12	9	3	8
West Virginia	10	9	3	0	1
Total	316	187	103	28	25

Types of Nursing Programs Currently in the SREB States and the District of Columbia

Source: National League for Nursing. *1997 Nursing Data Review.* New York: National League for Nursing Press, 1997, p. 25-27, 97, 106 and National League for Nursing. *Nursing DataSource 1997: Graduate Education in Nursing.* Sudbury, Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 1999, p. 17, 26.

The Council cannot claim credit for all of the progress in collegiate nursing education in the South, but neither can it be omitted from accounts of change. The stability of the Council has been fundamental to its success in shaping nursing education in the South. Its stated purposes are essentially what they were at its inception. Its way of working has changed only in technical details. Its center holds even as the winds of change blow furiously. Its future depends upon the commitment of leaders in nursing education who will embrace the new millennium with vision, courage and enthusiasm.

References ____

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Charter Institutions: 1975-76

Alabama

Bishop State Community College Calhoun Community College Gadsden State Community College George C. Wallace State Community College Jefferson State Community College Oakwood College Samford University Troy State University Tivskegee University University of Alabama at Birmingham University of Alabama at Birmingham University of North Alabama University of North Alabama University of South Alabama University of West Alabama Wallace State College

Arkansas

East Arkansas Community College Phillips County Community College University of Arkansas at Little Rock University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences University of Central Arkansas

Florida

Brevard Community College Broward Community College Broward Community College Daytona Beach Community College Florida A&M University Florida International University Florida State University Hillsborough County Community College Indian River Community College Lake City Community College Manatee Community College Miami-Dade Community College Palm Beach Community College Pensacola Junior College Polk Community College Santa Fe Community College St. Petersburg Junior College University of Florida University of Miami University of South Florida Valencia Community College

Georgia

Albany State University Armstrong Atlantic State University Brenau University Dalton College Darton College Emory University Floyd College Georgia College & State University Georgia Perimeter College Georgia Southwestern State University Georgia State University Kennesaw State University Medical College of Georgia North Georgia College and State University South Georgia College State University of West Georgia Valdosta State University

Kentucky

Eastern Kentucky University Elizabethtown Community College Kentucky State University Lexington Community College Murray State University Northern Kentucky University Spalding University University of Kentucky Western Kentucky University

Louisiana

Dillard University Louisiana State University Medical Center McNeese State University Nicholls State University Northwestern State University Southeastern Louisiana University University of Southwestern Louisiana

Maryland

Catonsville Community College Columbia Union College Coppin State College Essex Community College Frederick Community College Harford Community College Montgomery Community College Prince George's Community College Towson University University of Maryland

Mississippi

Hinds Community College Itawamba Community College Jones County Junior College Meridian Community College Mississippi College Mississippi Delta Community College Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Mississippi University for Women Northwest Mississippi Community College Pearl River Community College University of Mississippi Medical Center University of Southern Mississisppi William Carey College

North Carolina

Duke University East Carolina University Gardner-Webb University Lenoir Rhyne College North Carolina A&T University North Carolina Central University Rockingham Community College University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of North Carolina at Charlotte University of North Carolina at Greensboro University of North Carolina at Wilmington Western Carolina University Western Piedmont Community College Winston-Salem State University

South Carolina

Clemson University Florence-Darlington Technical College Greenville Technical College Lander University Medical University of South Carolina University of South Carolina University of South Carolina Aiken University of South Carolina at Spartanburg York Technical College-Univ. of SC, Lancaster

Tennessee

Austin Peay State University Cleveland State Community College Columbia State Community College East Tennessee State University Lincoln Memorial University Southern Adventist University Tennessee State University Union University Union University University of Memphis University of Tennessee at Chattanooga University of Tennessee at Martin University of Tennessee at Martin University of Tennessee at Martin University of Tennessee, Memphis Vanderbilt University Walters State Community College

Texas

Angelo State University Baylor University Del Mar College El Centro College Grayson County College Houston Baptist University Lamar University Odessa College Prairie View A&M University Tarrant County Junior College District Texarkana Community College Texas Christian University Texas Woman's University University of Mary Hardin-Baylor University of Texas at Arlington University of Texas at Austin University of Texas at El Paso University of Texas-Houston HSC University of Texas HSC at San Antonio University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston University of Texas-Pan American University of the Incarnate Word West Texas A&M University

Virginia

George Mason University Hampton University Norfolk State University Northern Virginia Community College Old Dominion University Radford University Thomas Nelson Community College Tidewater Community College University of Virginia Virginia Commonwealth University

West Virginia

Alderson-Broaddus College Davis and Elkins College Marshall University Southern West Virginia Community College West Virginia University