



Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

It is with pride and considerable gratitude that SREB's Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing announces that we will sunset our programs and services at the end of the current fiscal year —

- Pride in the council's strong legacy of promoting the nursing profession and facing the profession's challenges for 70 years
- Gratitude for opportunities to serve the profession, the Southern region's nursing programs and our higher education institutions

The council grew from within SREB shortly after its founding in 1948, when Southern governors responded to the region's need for greater education and health care programming to solve endemic poverty and related health crises. Nursing was represented in SREB's first commission on medical training. The nursing council that formed from that commission grew to become today's Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing.

The council has been true to its founding, focusing continuously on nursing and nurse educator shortages. We promoted greater preparation for nurses and greater diversity in the profession. We advocated advancement of nurses in the profession and in the academy: first the bachelor's degree, then the master's degree and doctorate. Our projects were deeply tied to our mission: we led the region in establishing mental health nursing programs; we promoted school-based nursing; we sponsored region-wide institutional surveys to gather data for making better decisions; we launched an online collaborative course series to help doctoral students find courses they needed; we hosted a continuous professional development conference for our constituency. We have been at the forefront of most of the major changes in nursing education in the region and nation over the last 70 years.

While the council has remained affiliated with SREB throughout its history, it opted in the mid-1970's — in a time of burgeoning memberships — to become self-sufficient and rely on SREB mainly for general administrative support. In recent years, dwindling membership levels necessitated greater collaboration between the council and SREB. We suspected the membership slide was caused by the deeper engagement of nursing programs with national nursing organizations as these organizations brought more of their activities to the region.

Three years ago, SREB and the council launched a membership campaign in hopes of adding members; this past year as membership dipped again, we pushed the campaign aggressively. This winter, we surveyed former and prospective members to ascertain why some were leaving and others were not joining, and we considered alternative organizational models that might keep the council viable. None of these exercises led to a promising future for the council — but the survey did provide insight that helped in the deliberations.

In the end, the council's officers and SREB leaders recognized that while the council's years have been productive and our legacy remains strong, our future was in jeopardy. It was time to sunset the council.

The council will close on June 30, 2020. We will continue with a strong webinar series this winter. We are also announcing a plan to appropriate the remaining council budget to support nursing students. The funds will provide six scholarships for minority nursing faculty at CCEN institutions who are also students in regional doctoral programs. Look for details in a related announcement, sent directly to council representatives at member institutions and posted soon on our [website](#).

SREB will continue with its ongoing work related to nursing in other divisions, particularly promoting high school curricula as part of strong pathways to college in nursing and working with doctoral scholars who are pursuing doctorates in nursing.

We thank all of you with whom we've worked over the years for your efforts to promote the council's mission. The issues the council has addressed are still vitally important, and we trust that they will continue to be important in your work.

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