Resolution on Nursing

Resolution AA2: 2003 -2004

On December 7, 2003, the New York State Board for Nursing voted in favor of implementing a requirement that future associate degree RNs practicing in NY State obtain a bachelors degree in nursing within 10 years of entering practice as a registered nurse or face demotion to serve as an LPN. The American Association of Community Colleges opposes this proposal.

Resolution:

Whereas, for more than 50 years, associate degree RNs have practiced alongside their counterparts from bachelor institutions providing equivalent professional health care, and

Whereas RNs graduating from associate degree programs have passed the NCLEX-RN test at the same rate as baccalaureate graduates and share the same scope of practice, and

Whereas, the New York State Board for Nursing’s proposal would negatively impact currently licensed RNs, possibly causing them to leave the profession, and

Whereas, the proposal would eventually create a two tiered workforce, and

Whereas, the only state in the nation that required a bachelors RN (North Dakota) experienced difficulties retaining RNs and training new RNs and therefore has overturned the bachelor degree requirement, and

Whereas, all RNs are educated to perform the same responsibilities and advanced education is available to Associate Degree Nurses who may enroll in over 150 RN to MSN programs without obtaining a bachelor’s degree, including 13 NY colleges and universities, and

Whereas, nurses prepared at the Associate Degree level are the backbone of nursing in hospitals and nursing homes, and

Whereas, at a time when the nursing shortage is becoming more acute is detrimental to require the baccalaureate degree of those Associate Degree RNs.

Therefore it be resolved that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges believes that the Board’s proposal would negatively impact currently licensed RN’s as well as preventing the recruitment of new RNs which will adversely effect the health care system of New York State. Although the FCCC does promote the concept of continued education for the Associate Degree nurses, the FCCC respectfully encourages the Chancellor of the State University of New York to ask the New York State Board for Nursing to rescind
their proposal for the implementation of the bachelors level RN as a requirement for practicing in New York State.