



**Diversity Advisory Board Annual Report
2012-2013 Academic Year**

Boston College
William F. Connell School of Nursing
Diversity Advisory Board Report
2012-2013

The Connell School of Nursing (CSON) Diversity Advisory Board met twice during the 2012-13 academic year, Fall and Spring semesters. Much of the focus during the 2012-13 year has been centered on building collaboration and bringing people together around diversity. In the Fall semester, CSON hosted the American Assembly for Men in Nursing – New England Chapter president and AAMN-NE representatives to meet with nursing students. Dr. Danny Willis, Chair of the Diversity Advisory Board, assisted AAMN-NE members and student to explore the topic of men in nursing, diversity workforce issues, and career planning.

In-depth discussion began during the Fall 2012 Diversity Advisory Board meeting regarding best practices for diversity and inclusivity in schools of nursing. Dr. Deborah Washington of the Massachusetts General Hospital (Diversity Advisory Board member) proposed Boston College CSON as representing a best practice model. Further discussion and planning has been ongoing including strategizing ways to clearly document and showcase the various and multiple dimensions in which CSON addresses diversity and inclusivity.

On April 26, 2013, Dr. Willis and Dr. Washington co-lead a diversity event at Boston College Connell School of Nursing entitled “CSON STAND AGAINST RACISM.” This event coincided with the national YWCA Stand Against Racism day. The event was well attended and began with a march across campus by nursing students, faculty, diversity advisory board members, retired faculty, and alumni. Student leaders from undergraduate and graduate nursing programs participated as well as students from the Keys to Inclusive Leadership in Nursing (KILN) and Price Foundation programs. Seven student leaders led discussions and brainstorming activities at the event regarding social determinants of health and nurse leadership strategies for standing up against racism. Much enthusiasm was generated during the event and there are plans to offer the event on a yearly basis.

Planning for the 2013 – 14 academic year is underway, including two formal meetings of the Diversity Advisory Board, for the Fall and Spring semester, as well as a Fall 2013 meeting of students and faculty to focus on the topic of BC CSON serving as a leader in bringing people together to dialogue diversity. Plans are underway for a Spring 2014 event to focus on racism and creating diverse leaders across groups (academic, community, healthcare organizations). The Spring 2014 meeting will target inclusion of key leaders from various organization devoted to diversity in nursing (American Assembly for Men in Nursing, Hispanic Nurses Association, Philippine Nurses Association, New England Regional Black Nurses Association).

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny G. Willis (Chair, Diversity Advisory Board)