

theindependentvoice

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges... Educators, Employers, Community Partners

The Role of Higher Education By Judith B. Greiman, President

The American Council on Education (ACE) recently launched a national public outreach campaign designed to raise awareness about higher education's critical role in the future of our country. *Solutions for Our Future* will highlight the broad societal benefits of higher education.

As noted by ACE, the key messages of this effort include:

*Well-educated citizens are crucial to America's ability to confront the challenges of the future.

*Our colleges and universities contribute to the economy, well-being, and quality of life in our country.

*Our country must continue to expand college access and achievement to build the

human capital necessary to succeed in the international knowledge economy.

*America must sustain public investment in higher education to meet the needs of the future.

Connecticut's future economic growth connects well to these messages. We already know that our state's ability to compete in the global marketplace will be threatened by demographics, the decreasing skill and availability of graduates in science and technical fields and a lack of access to higher education due to cuts or level funding of state and federal financial aid programs.

Just as the number of jobs requiring a college education is increasing in our state,

projections show that between 2008 and 2013, the number of high school

"If we are to remain preeminent in transforming knowledge into economic value, the U.S. system of higher education must remain the world's leader in generating scientific and technological breakthroughs and in preparing workers to meet the evolving demands for skilled labor."
- Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Federal Reserve Board

graduates will decrease by six percent. Estimates show that the 2013 high school graduating class will actually be lesser in number than the 2005 class leaving fewer students to enter postsecondary education.

Connecticut can only prosper if we make sure that all of our residents succeed in K-12 education, matriculate to college and then graduate in a timely fashion. ACE notes that research conducted for its Solutions campaign shows that 92 percent of respondents agree that actions taken today on higher education policy will be critical to U.S. competitive leadership in the world 25 years from now.

Accordingly, Connecticut leaders must take steps today to help students be aware of the importance of a college education, to ensure that high school curricula are rigorous and aligned with college entrance requirements and to provide need-based financial aid so that access to higher education is preserved.

Fairfield University School of Nursing to offer Master of Science in Nursing and Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia

A new partnership between Fairfield University and the Bridgeport Hospital Nurse Anesthesia Program offer a Master of Science Degree in Nursing and Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia, starting in January 2007. The 29-month full-time program will be the only nurse anesthesia program in Connecticut to offer the Master of Science in Nursing to its anesthesia students.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists deliver approximately 65 percent of the

anesthesia in the country depending upon the region and are among the highest paid nurse professionals. The Fairfield University-Bridgeport Hospital Nurse Anesthesia Program is a 50-credit program that provides all clinical opportunities at one site to meet the standards set by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) Educational Programs. Students who complete the program will earn a Master of Science in Nursing from Fairfield University and a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia from the Bridgeport



Nancy Moriber, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Nursing at Fairfield University

Hospital Nurse Anesthesia Program.

"The field of nurse anesthesia is one of the pillars of advanced practice nursing and we expect this program to be very successful," said Jeanne Novotny, Ph.D., dean of the

School of Nursing at Fairfield University. "We are thrilled to be working with the Bridgeport Hospital Nurse Anesthesia Program, a leading provider of these services in our state, to offer students state-of-the-art instruction in this area."

The nurse anesthesia program will start in January of each year. After a spring and summer of academics, students will begin their clinical practicum and continue to take required academic courses until the May graduation date.

Fairfield cont. on p. 2