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I took a summer break in June, so this is a two-month issue. I'll be back to each month in August. --Mary

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## Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Announces New Program

RWJ has announced the formation of the Nurse Faculty Scholars (NFS), a new program to help talented junior nursing faculty to advance in their careers by providing the opportunity to develop a research program and participate in additional scholarly activities, engage in mentoring programs in their current institutions and nationally, leadership training, networking among colleagues and scholars in nursing and related fields and allowed time to gain critical skills in academic nursing.

Selected scholars will be supported 60% time for three years of the program. Nursing schools may nominate one candidate annually, and have no more than two scholars in the program at any

one time. Candidates must be junior faculty members with at least two years, but no more than five years of experience in the faculty role at the start of the program.

The goal of the program is to develop the next generation of national leaders in academic nursing through the provision of career development awards for outstanding junior nursing faculty. For more information about the program including applicant requirements and selection criteria, contact the program director, Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN, at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing or visit the website at:

[www.nursefaculty scholars.org/](http://www.nursefaculty scholars.org/).

## Nominations Sought for the Carol E. Franck Nursing Leadership Award

For the last ten years, the Michigan State University College of Nursing has celebrated the leadership of Carol Franck, former faculty member and Executive Director of the Michigan Nurses Association, with an annual award in her name and honor. Carol died on January 24, 2009, but her legacy of leadership continues through the presentation of the award honoring a nurse who has taken an active role in representing nursing to the wider public, demonstrating leadership and advocacy as critical elements of nursing. The award will be presented at MSU College of Nursing's Scholarships and Awards Ceremony on October 2, 2009. All nominations must be submitted by July 15, 2009, using the on-line nomination form at [www.nursing.msu.edu](http://www.nursing.msu.edu). RN-AIM President, Kathy Kacynski, will serve on the committee selecting the recipient of this year's award.

## Michigan Center for Nursing

There is lots of news on the Michigan Center for Nursing website ([www.mhc.org](http://www.mhc.org)). For those of you who don't regularly visit this site, it's full of news about nursing in Michigan. Carole Stacy, the MCN Director, is a member of RN-AIM and the individual who brought the idea for the Nurse2Nurse Piggybank to Michigan. Through her efforts, and the generous contributions of nurses throughout the State, grants are available for nursing students who experience special monetary needs. The fund will grant dollars to students for emergencies, and the fund is steadily growing. My little pig, who sits on my desk to remind me, goes to every RN-AIM Board meeting and conference, so practicing nurses can help nursing students in need.



## The Michigan Coalition for Children and Families Seeks Your Help

The Michigan Coalition for Children and Families is a coalition of more than sixty organizations and individuals concerned with the health and welfare of children and families in Michigan and for many years has provided advocacy to the legislature and policy-makers to ensure that quality services remain available and accessible for children and their families. The MCCF Executive Committee recently met to discuss strategy, messages and concerns regarding the proposed cuts to a wide range of children's services, particularly in the Senate budget bills currently under consideration. All members of the coalition have been alarmed by the depth and breadth of the proposed cuts, the decimation of prevention and safety net programs for children and families and the rapidity of the decisions that will be made in the legislature.

There are a number of things that RN-AIM members, along with other nursing and health care colleagues, can do to address the massive cuts proposed to balance the budget as required by Michigan law.

Learn about the issues currently under consideration. Visit the Michigan League for Human Services website and become familiar with the proposals. This site contains information to help you understand the consequences of such drastic program cuts and provides suggestions for revenue enhancements that you can share with legislators to address their argument that they have no option but to cut prevention programs and services. The website is [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org).

Talk to your legislators, let them know how important prevention is to the maintenance of health and that dollars can be saved by providing services that will prevent more serious disease that requires increasingly costly services.

Obtain a *KidsPriority1* t-shirt from MCCF and wear it when you visit your legislator. Shirts are available from Scott Dzurka at [sdzurka@umichi.org](mailto:sdzurka@umichi.org). He will mail you a shirt (\$5.00 donation per shirt is appreciated).

Set-up a meeting with your local legislators, particularly the Senators and relay the following message: *"I am concerned about the proposed cuts to prevention services, and I support the restoration of health, safety, education and security programs that have demonstrated evidence of promoting the health and well-being of children and their families."*

The inadequate revenues in Michigan are not just because of the economic downturn. We had a structural deficit long before the state and national economic tailspin. Michigan must modernize its revenue base in order to maintain the social and

economic infrastructure that sustains our families, communities and quality of life.

View the slides developed by Robert Kleine, State Treasurer ([www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org)). They give a picture of how Michigan has continually lost economic stability throughout the past several years.

MCCF recommends sharing alternatives to the cuts proposed by suggesting revenue enhancements to the legislature. Three suggestions, among the many to be found at the League website include:

- That Michigan expand its sales tax base to include selected services. Michigan taxes very few services and yet the service sector is the growing sector of Michigan's economy. Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia tax more services than Michigan.
- That the legislature consider a progressive income tax that would provide more growth than our current flat tax system. Thirty-four states, the District of Columbia, as well as the federal government, have a graduated income tax. As income equality widens, and the growth in income continues at higher levels, Michigan is failing to address that growth in income with a graduated tax system.
- That the legislature raise the beer tax which has not been adjusted since 1966, when it was lowered! Tax revenue from beer covers only 16% of the cost of state services that it covered in 1966. An increase of 4 cents per can would generate approximately \$100 million that could be designated for prevention and treatment services needed by children and families.

And the Musing...

Guess what? It's time for every nurse member of RN-AIM to become an advocate for the services they realize are necessary to maintain the health and safety of all citizens. Advocare/Advocate means to speak for another, and in this case, it is our duty as professional nurses to speak for the families and children who need health services (particularly prevention services) that will allow them to become or remain productive citizens of this beautiful State. It has been difficult for me, as a former State employee concerned with services for children and families to witness the erosion of quality services to young children, adolescents, individuals with chronic disease and those suffering the stresses of hard economic times to lose the supports that keep them from falling through the cracks of the health and social systems.

The Michigan League for Human Services and the Michigan Coalition for Children and Families have provided us with the tools to address legislators who only think of cutting services and not how to address the underlying structural deficits that have plagued Michigan for many years. We need to remind them that what Michigan really needs is revenue enhancement. I charge you to use those resources to help the legislature understand how to maintain crucial services and attain fiscal solvency.

It's up to you!