

### **Outcomes of the Joint Meeting of ACEND, CDR, Council on Future Practice, Education Committee and Nutrition & Dietetics Educators and Preceptors DPG**

The Visioning Report is a projection of what is needed in the future for the benefit of the public and profession. The Council's recommendations took into consideration the changing landscape of health care, clinical specialist practice, food systems, services and the expanding art and science of food and nutrition. These recommendations have broad implications for education and credentialing which verifies mastery of subject material and skills critical for future practice.

Over 600 members have provided electronic feedback to the Visioning Report since its release in September 2012. The report served as the dialogue topic for the Fall 2012 HOD Meeting, which generated additional input from delegates, members and students. The outcomes of this dialogue topic were summarized in the Visioning Report Outcomes HOD Fact Sheet released to the House of Delegates on October 10, 2012.

A group of thirty-eight members representing the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), Council on Future Practice (CFP), Education Committee (EC) and Nutrition & Dietetics Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) DPG were called together as an outcome of the Fall 2012 HOD Meeting. The focus of the meeting was to come to consensus on how to address the recommendations in the Visioning Report in light of the feedback from members and the HOD dialogue session. The meeting was convened on January 17-19, 2013. Key Academy staff including Pat Babjak, CEO, provided support and participated in the meeting. Marsha Rhea, iSignature, Alexandria, VA, served as an outside facilitator for this joint meeting.

This meeting was a critical step for discussing the Visioning Report recommendations and determining how to proceed. Discussions of the Visioning Report recommendations centered on the following aspects:

- Proposed outcomes of each recommendation, if implemented;
- Leader and member feedback summary for each recommendation;
- Constraints and limitations for each recommendation;
- Actions to advance each recommendations, if implemented;
- Consensus on actions to advance a recommendation; and,
- Organizational unit assignments.

At the start of discussions, the group acknowledged that the future vision for the profession is based on an interrelated continuum of education, credentialing and practice that provides individuals with multiple paths to begin as well as advance their careers. Based on the discussions, several key design principles emerged, which will guide future dialogue and decision-making:

- The first priority is to ensure competent practitioners to protect the public and improve the health and well-being of patients, clients and populations;
- The desired outcome is to improve educational preparation, credentialing and career continuum for the food and nutrition profession;
- All levels of the career continuum will be grounded in nutrition and dietetics knowledge and skills with greater expertise and more focused areas of practice at the higher levels of the continuum;
- Anticipation of and preparation for future practice and requirements at all levels of the career continuum are necessary;

- Educational institutions will need time, resources and flexibility to pursue various approaches and models to achieve the profession's desired outcomes. The Academy and its organizational units will support educators throughout the transition;
- Change will occur through a process that is transparent and inclusive of the perspectives of different stakeholders;
- This is an evolutionary process of change to the degrees and credentials which impact the interrelationships between organizational units that must implement any decisions;
- Change must occur within the parameters of present accreditation and credentialing requirements and standards which ACEND and CDR must uphold.

Recognizing the magnitude of this undertaking and the additional collaborative discussions within and across organizational units, we deferred a more detailed timeline and action plan to early spring 2013. Members of the CFP, along with representatives from ACEND and CDR, will be attending upcoming NDEP Regional Meetings to gain an understanding of the impact on and capabilities of educational institutions. Throughout this process, we will continue to solicit member and stakeholder input at various points in the journey forward. Any changes will occur through a process that is transparent and inclusive of the perspectives of the various stakeholders.

Consensus was achieved on the following statements regarding future practice.

1. The Academy and its organizational units will support the DTR credential as long as it remains financially viable and relevant in the practice environment.
2. Baccalaureate degree prepared individuals will have a set of knowledge, skills and competencies for eligibility to qualify for an examination based on a practice audit.
3. These credentialed baccalaureate degree individuals may choose to pursue other educational opportunities, along with other professional options for advancement, if desired. During the transition, current DPD graduates will be eligible for the new baccalaureate degree credential, but over time, eligibility requirements may evolve as new education standards are developed by ACEND.
4. A graduate degree which integrates supervised practice into the curriculum will become the entry to Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN) practice in the future upon successful completion of an examination based on a practice audit.
5. Although organizational units within the Academy may function independently and autonomously, they should collaborate with "early adopters" to ensure the profession remains forward thinking and relevant to the practice environment.
6. Based on personal choice, nutrition and dietetics practitioners may use the professional designation of either the RD or RDN. The new designation will be rolled out in 2013.
7. Specialist and advanced practice education and credentialing were re-affirmed as necessary for future success of the profession.

A more comprehensive report of the meeting will be shared with the Board of Directors, House of Delegates, DPGs, MIGs, Affiliates, ACEND, ACEND Program Directors, Education Committee, CDR, and all Academy committees in mid-March 2013. The report will be posted on appropriate web pages, and Academy facebook pages. Members of ACEND, CDR and CFP will be present at all the NDEP DPG Regional Meetings in March and April 2013.

The Council on Future Practice welcomes your questions, comments and feedback. Please share this information by sending an email to the Council on Future Practice at [futurepractice@eatright.org](mailto:futurepractice@eatright.org)