

PRESS RELEASE

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National Association of School Nurses Celebrate 42nd Annual Conference in Chicago

Silver Spring, MD: The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) held its 42nd Annual Conference in Chicago, IL June 29 – July 3, 2010, bringing together over a thousand school nurse leaders and other experts from around the country to address daily student health issues facing our Nation.

NASN President, **Sandra Delack, RN, BSN, Med, NCSN**, chose *Vision, Voice, Visibility: Charting the Course for a Healthy Future* as this year's theme. NASN's Annual Conference is the premier conference for school nurses nationally and internationally. This year's program provided opportunities for school nurses to recharge their batteries through inspiring keynote addresses. Numerous breakout sessions offered take-away ideas for planning for the 2010-2011 school year. Ambitious exhibitor and product presentation sessions presented a broader-than-ever array of new products and services available for school nursing practice.

Kevin Concannon, USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNS), presented a general session entitled *No Nation Is Healthier Than Its Children* which addressed the problems of child hunger and obesity, seen by school nurses every day. FNS feeds an estimated one in four Americans, and has lead responsibilities for promoting healthy diets. Child nutritional programs, such as National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Summer Food Service Programs help ensure our Nation's children have access to healthy food during the school day. School nurses have been advocating for the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act which would provide healthy food choices in schools. Provisions, such as ridding schools of junk food, would promote better learning and overall wellness.

Other featured speakers included **LeAnn Thieman, LPN, CSP, CPAE**, Hall of Fame Speaker, Author & Nurse; **Dan Salmon**, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; **Laurie Nathan, BA**, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and **Diann Uustal, BS, MS**, Educational Resources in Health Care.

This year's conference featured five tracks in 84 breakout sessions, allowing participants to customize their learning experiences to meet their objectives. The tracks included **Research, Practice, Leadership/Legal, Global, and Health Promotion**.

The **43rd NASN Annual Conference** will take place in Washington, DC June 29 – July 3, 2011. For more information please visit www.nasn.org.

NASN

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, organized in 1968 and incorporated in 1977, representing school nurses exclusively. NASN has over 14,000 members and 51 affiliates, including the District of Columbia and overseas. The mission of the NASN is to improve the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance the school nursing practice. To learn more about NASN, please visit us on the Web at www.nasn.org or call 866-627-6767.

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