



ACNM BOD/Staff Response #2 to 2014 Student Report

The student report is still in discussion at quarterly BOD meetings. We thank you for your continued work with us on making students and midwifery education a strong priority for ACNM. The following additional items were discussed at the December ACNM Board of Directors meeting in response to the 2014 Student Report.

Diversification and Inclusion:

The Diversification and Inclusion Task Force is working on a strategy to recruit, retain, and support inclusion and advancement of persons of diverse backgrounds to the profession of midwifery. This will include a focus on midwifery students.

Curriculum: Primary Care and Online Learning:

Program Directors addressed the issues raised by students regarding their desire for a more consistent approach to primary care curriculum among midwifery education programs. Most but not all midwifery education programs have separate didactic courses in primary care; some but not all programs require a separate clinical course in primary care. Although all programs must meet the ACME criteria for providing primary care content in their curricula, how this is accomplished differs among programs. Discussion ensued regarding proposing some standardization in what programs are doing, and a task force of 12 program directors was formed with Julia Lange Kessler, PD of the Georgetown University education program, whose DNP project focused on primary care in midwifery education, as chair.

ACME also addressed these issues in their November Board of Commissioners meeting and they have written a [response to the students](#).

Preceptors/Clinical Placements:

The issues raised in the Student Report regarding the difficulties that students have finding their own clinical sites was extensively discussed by Program Directors at their October meeting. As a result, DOME and MBN collaborated on an agenda item for the December BOD meeting, requesting that the BOD take the following actions:

1. Continue to actively seek Graduate Medical Education funds for midwifery education. Increased federal funding is imperative in a competitive marketplace for clinical training. Midwife preceptors and practice sites can open to midwifery students with the ability to access the funds.
2. Engage health care systems (Human, Tenet, Kaiser, etc.) at the regional and national level to change existing restrictive policies and open the doors in all their facilities to midwifery students.

3. Continue to work with professional partners (ACOG) to manifest interprofessional clinical learning opportunities, to increase clinical settings available to midwifery education and improve interprofessional training in collaborative practice. Addition of midwifery students does not diminish or reduce the resources for medical education – and will ultimately expand the educator pool.

The BOD recommended that ACNM staff members Jesse Bushman, Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, and Elaine Germano, Senior Education Policy Advisor, respond to these issues. Their response will be sent to the writers of the letter.

ACME also addressed these issues in their November Board of Commissioners meeting, included in [their written response to the students](#).

Once again, thank you for your thoughtful responses. The student representative to the BOD will give you another update after the March BOD meeting so you can see the progress of your recommendations. Happy studying!

Best,
The ACNM Board of Directors and Staff
February 2014