



**Dean's Annual Report: Diversity Section
2009-2010 Academic Year**

Diversity

With the funding of the “Keys for Leadership in Nursing” grant under the direction of Associate Dean Cathy Read and with new funding also from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for increased diversity in our Direct Masters Entry program, we have been fortunate indeed to have many additional resources available to support diversity initiatives.

Our Diversity Advisory Board is in place and has been providing us with support in terms of recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups. We conducted a workshop for all faculty members this year on providing culturally sensitive curriculum. This workshop was conducted by Dr. Norma Martinez Rogers, current president of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses Association. Dr. Rogers also hosted a cocktail party at BC and invited important community leaders from the Hispanic community. We have developed partnerships with the Massachusetts chapter of NAHN and we continue to partner with NAHN itself and have been recruiting at NAHN conferences for the past two years. With the largest growing demographic group of Catholics in the United States being Hispanic it is very important for us to strategically partner to ensure that this group has access to high quality education.

This year we have also been very active with the New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA). Two tables (including KILN students) of faculty and students attended the NERBNA awards ceremony this year and were present to support the keynote speaker for the event who was our very own Dr. Angela Frederick Amar, herself an award winner last year from NERBNA.

We were privileged this academic year to have Dr. Loretta Sweet Jemmott at BC to speak with faculty and students. Dr. Jemmott is a renowned Black nurse researcher who is a member of IOM and the American Academy of Nursing and who heads the Center for Health Equity at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Jemmott’s current research focuses on improving health decision making for young men through a health promotion intervention provided in the barber shops of Philadelphia. Dr. Jemmott spoke with our KILN students and other minority students while she was at BC to provide

leadership strategies.

Another supporter of our diversity issues has been our alumna, Jennie Chin Hanson, who spoke with student leaders at the National Student Nurse Association convention in Tennessee this year, who spoke with students, faculty and alumni at BC this year about leadership opportunities to promote health care change and who has agreed to join our diversity advisory board.