All Member Call to Action for Future Practice

House of Delegates Spring 2017

The future is now! The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics House of Delegates (HOD) discussed the future of nutrition and dietetics practice during the HOD Spring 2017 virtual meeting on April 22.

Future Practice
Mega Issue Question
How can credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners elevate the profession, expand opportunities, and enhance practice for the Second Century?

Delegates used a variety of strategies to prepare for the discussion and glean member input regarding the future of nutrition and dietetics practice, including reviewing the mega issue backgrounder and fact sheet, pre-meeting video, and the Council on Future Practice’s Visioning Report 2017: Preferred Path Forward for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession. Delegates conducted presentations, webinars, discussions, and surveys among constituents. Based on the dialogue, report outs, and notes captured in the workbooks from each table, essential areas identified to move the profession forward aligned with the change drivers and recommendations of the Council on Future Practice’s Visioning Report 2017 and the Rationale for Future Education Preparation of Nutrition and Dietetics Practitioners from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

Call to Action
The House of Delegates challenges all existing and new credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners, in all areas of practice, to take action to elevate and expand their competencies in the following areas to achieve the desired vision of future practice.
Next Steps

a. **The House Leadership Team, in conjunction with Academy committees and staff partners**, will compile a list of tools and resources available to support professional development in areas noted above.

b. **Delegates** will identify and share education and professional development opportunities to help members advance practice and keep pace.
   i. This includes sharing the Journal Podcast on the Council on Future Practice’s [Visioning Report 2017: Preferred Path Forward for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession](#), ACEND’s updates on the [Future Education Model](#), and other resources as developed by the Academy and its organizational units.
   ii. Delegates can continue to utilize existing tools such as the Speaker Messages, Appreciative Inquiry toolkit, backgrounders, fact sheets, presentations, and other supporting materials to share updates on HOD issues.

c. **Delegates** will work with their boards/executive committees to create an action plan identifying ways to incorporate change drivers and future practice areas into their plans of work.
   i. Ideas: incorporating into the strategic plan, planning a session for the next annual conference, or collaborating with other Affiliates, Dietetic Practice Groups (DPGs), Member Interest Groups (MIGs), or committees on professional development opportunities

d. **All credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners** will develop strategies to create and achieve a future vision that will better meet the needs of clients, customers, the profession, and society of the future by:
   ii. Expanding leadership skills, collaborative skills, and communication skills by utilizing current programs and by creating new educational opportunities through collaboration with Academy groups (such as Affiliates, DPGs, MIGs) and external stakeholders.
   iii. Taking personal action to gain new skills, knowledge, and education as life-long learners.
   iv. Being assertive and visionary leaders of the profession of nutrition and dietetics by having the strength, confidence, and courage to be risk-takers.

**Conclusion**
As the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics enters its Second Century, our visionary and dedicated members will play a lead role in improving the health of people worldwide through the transformative power of food and nutrition. By enhancing skills and knowledge, and by creating opportunities that elevate practice, the profession will be able to meet the global nutrition challenges of the future.