The White Coat Ceremony was designed by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) as a way to welcome new students into the medical profession and to set clear expectations regarding their primary role as physicians by professing an oath. Today, the Ceremony emphasizes the importance of compassionate care as well as scientific proficiency.


Currently, a White Coat Ceremony or similar rite of passage takes place at 97% of AAMC-accredited schools of medicine in the United States and Canada, as well as at osteopathic schools of medicine and at schools in 13 other countries. At the ceremony, students are welcomed by their deans, the president of the hospital, or other respected leaders who represent the value system of the school and the profession. The cloaking with the white coat—the mantle of the medical profession—is a hands-on experience that underscores the bonding process. It is personally placed on each student’s shoulders by individuals who believe in the students’ ability to carry on the noble tradition of doctoring. It is a personally delivered gift of faith, confidence and compassion.

To capitalize on the success of this widely hailed program and its positive impact on compassionate patient care, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and AACN are supporting expanding the White Coat Ceremony to nursing.

In 2014 the APGF partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to provide support for piloting of the White Coat Ceremony at 100 nursing schools. Following the pilot program, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and AACN are planning 2015 to be the inaugural year for the nationwide rollout of the White Coat Ceremony to a larger number of nursing institutions. The specially designed pin will serve as a visual reminder of the students’ oath and commitment to provide compassionate and high quality care.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for university and four-year college education programs in nursing. Representing more than 750 member schools of nursing at public and private institutions nationwide, AACN’s educational, research, governmental advocacy, data collection, publications, and other programs work to establish quality standards for bachelor’s- and graduate-degree nursing education, assist deans and directors to implement those standards, influence the nursing profession to improve health care, and promote public support of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, research, and practice.

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**White Coat Ceremony**

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Oath

As a Nurse dedicated to providing the highest quality care and services, I solemnly pledge that I will:

- Consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns;
- Act in a compassionate and trustworthy manner in all aspects of my care;
- Apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for my patients;
- Exercise sound professional judgment while abiding by legal and ethical requirements;
- Accept the lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence;
- Promote, advocate for, and strive to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.

With this pledge, I accept the duties and responsibilities that embody the nursing profession.

I take this oath voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

Honorees

BITORI, BLABOUWEDEOU*
CAGLE, MICHELLE A.
CRADLE, MELANIE T.
CURRY, COURTNEY S.*
ELLISON, LOUISA M.*
HARMON, DAVID L.
LUBIN, NATALIE L.
MADRAY, ERIKA*
MAY, MARIAH D.
NDEFFO KENCNE, GWLADYS
NELSON, TANITA R.
ODIONYI, SUSAN K.
POWELL, CHARISSE
SAAFIR, MALIKAH N.
SHUMAN, SARENA L.
WRIGHT, ASHANTI L.

Program

Welcome

Mrs. Terry Wright, MSN, RN*
Assistant Professor, Department of Undergraduate Nursing

Introduction of the Speaker

Donna Pendergraft, MSN-Ed, RN
Chairperson, Department of Undergraduate Nursing

Keynote Speaker

Mr. Kamron Redding, BS, RN
Staff Nurse / HUSON Class of 2014

Cloaking of White Coats & Presentation of Pins

Mrs. Norma Bergey, MSN, RN NCSN*
Mrs. Robin Ward, MS-Ed, RN*
Mrs. Terry Wright, MSN, RN*
Foundations of Nursing Instructors

Recitation of Oath

Ms. Rosalyn Gardiner, MSN, NE-BC, WHNP-BC*
Mrs. Tinnikka Robertson-Jones, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC
Student Nurses Association Faculty Advisors

Remarks

Dr. Shevellanie E. Lott, PhD, RN, CNE
Dean, School of Nursing

Reception for students and invited guests