Addressing today’s challenges, anticipating the future

2021—the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic—demanded registered nurses’ full determination and committed service. As the pandemic evolved through the high of widely available vaccines and low of new, more contagious variants, the ANA Enterprise—American Nurses Association, American Nurses Foundation, and American Nurses Credentialing Center—continued to adapt in full support of nurses nationwide.

During its 125th anniversary year, the American Nurses Association in partnership with 23 major nursing associations considered not only the profession’s past but also its current practices and policies and took concrete steps toward a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive future.

The American Nurses Foundation embarked on an ambitious, groundbreaking project to transform nursing practice, regulation, and education in the coming decade.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center celebrated 30 years of promoting the highest standards of nursing, in all practice and professional settings, with the aim of improving patient care and clinical outcomes.

Throughout the year, the ANA Enterprise led the profession in addressing today’s challenges and in shaping the future of nursing and health care.

Our leaders look back on 2021 and ahead to the future
In 2021, the ANA Enterprise continued to adapt as the COVID-19 pandemic evolved.

In 2021, ANA Enterprise continued as a national voice on COVID-19 issues, relentless advocate for nurses’ safety, positive work environments, and mental health and well-being, chronicler of nurses’ lived experiences during the pandemic, and trusted resource on nursing.

We committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity and motivating all nurses to confront systemic racism.

Committed to see the nursing profession exemplify diversity, equity, and inclusivity, and motivate all nurses to confront systemic racism, the American Nurses Association along with three co-lead organizations and 20 member organizations representing the country’s leading nursing groups launched the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing. This landmark body took decisive steps to define, understand the context of and appreciate the effects of racism on nurses today and in the past. These foundational elements set the stage for the Commission’s work in 2022, including release of a milestone report and strategies to effect meaningful change.
We marked 30 years of Advancing Excellence in the nursing profession—empowering nurses around the world.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center marked 30 years of progress in advancing the nursing profession, empowering nurses worldwide to leverage their competencies for the benefit of their patients. ANCC’s Framework for Healthcare Excellence built on four pillars—fostering interprofessional collaboration, empowering engagement, sustaining a culture of excellence, and advancing professional care—set the stage for individual nurses and organizations to achieve their highest potential. The Framework, connecting all ANCC programs underscored the value of nurses in continuously improving healthcare quality, ultimately elevating health outcomes of patients throughout the United States and internationally.

We launched the Reimaging Nursing Initiative to bring bold, innovative ideas to the future of nursing.

The American Nurses Foundation launched the $19 million Reimaging Nursing Initiative to bring forward and pilot bold ideas to tackle big barriers hindering nursing and the healthcare system. This historic effort kicked off with 347 proposals from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for reimagining nursing education, technology-enabled nursing practice, and direct reimbursement nursing models. Funding for and development of selected projects in 2022 could fundamentally change the future of nursing practice, regulation, and education.
2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Here are just some of the highlights and accomplishments of the year...

WE CONTRIBUTED TO NURSES AND THE NURSING PROFESSION...

AMERICAN NURSES FOUNDATION

MADE 45 GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN $2,706,000

YOU TOOK ACTION...

MORE THAN 113,000 NURSES AND ADVOCATES SENT OVER 60,000 LETTERS TO CONGRESS through our grassroots community RNAAction.org

YOU SHARED YOUR CONCERNS...

47,500 NURSES chronicled their experiences in 4 surveys in the Pulse on the Nation’s Nurses COVID-19 Survey Series

WE PROVIDED EDUCATION AND RESOURCES...

250,000 VIEWS ANA’s COVID-19 Video Education Series
20 National Broadcast Appearances
1,780 Media Mentions

You joined together...

More than 37,000 RNs became new ANA members

Together, we explored...

More than 2,000 participants joined 4 ANA Innovation Lounges for thoughtful, interactive discussions about bold, inspiring ideas

You pursued health and wellness...

393,000 RNs participated in Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation and Well-Being Initiative programs

We progressed on the journey...

ANCC Advanced Excellence in Nursing

31,000+
New Certification Applicants

30
New Applicants for Nursing Continuing Professional Development Accreditation

31
New Programs Accredited by the Practice Transition Accreditation Program®

34
Initial Magnet Recognition® Program Designations

17
New Pathway to Excellence Program® Designations

61,000+
Visitors to New Advanced Practice Web Page
“We need nurses at the table when talking about health policy, access, and healthcare prevention, maintenance, and intervention. We need a work environment that is safe and where patients and families cannot be allowed to be abusive. Nurses are vital to the discussion.”

Joan O’Hanlon Curry
MS, RN, CPNP-PC, CPON

“I work in a stressful ICU, so I had to pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic to find healthy ways to deal with my emotions.”

Ashley Johnson
DNP, AGPCNP-C, MSN, RN, CCRN

“In a clinical setting, you can see the burnout happening to nurses, especially new nurses. We all have to work on improving our mental health, so we don’t lose them.”

Matthew S. Howard
DNP, RN, CEN, TCRN, CPEN, CPN
“**Healthy Nurse Healthy Nation™** is one of the best ways to support the nation’s nursing workforce and I commit to helping in any way I can.”

Sue Ferguson  
DNP, MBA, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC

“**ANCC Accreditation has improved** the interpersonal relationships between the nursing education department with the nurse managers. The culture is more positive and the nurses are more motivated to attend NCPD activities.”

Lilian Yew  
MS, BHScN, RN

“**Leadership, shared decision-making, safety, quality, well-being, and professional development** make up the framework for creating a culture of excellence.”

Angela Patterson  
DNP, FNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP
“The dedicated mentorship and financial support of the Minority Fellowship Program at ANA provided me the most valuable resources and a sense of community that I desperately needed in my nursing education.”

Schola Matovu
PhD, RN, MSN

“The uniqueness and flexibility of a Magnet hospital allows me to explore nursing with a different view, enriching myself and my practice of care.”

Tim Madiera
CRNP, APRN-CNS

“One of the best ways to be the owners of our practice is to be the regulators of our practice. At a time when nurses seek greater voice, autonomy, and independence… it is vital to appreciate the regulatory factors impacting this evolution.”

Kahlil Demonbreun
DNP, RNC-OB, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
“Being able to engage nurses early in their careers and giving them a structured transition into practice gives nurses the opportunity to be successful.”

Simmy King
DNP, MS, MBA, RN-BC, NE-BC

“If patients don’t have insurance, or if nurses don’t have access to personal protective equipment, that all comes from some policy level, and finding a way for them to find their voice helps amplify my overall goal, which is to get nurses more involved in legislative and clinical advocacy.”

Justin Gill
DNP, ARNP, RN

“I want you to download a whole new version of nurses, the post COVID-19 version of nurses. Update your mental icons of what nurses do, have been doing, and can do … double-click on nurses as partners in health transformation and policy formation.”

Shawna Butler
MBA, RN
“By living the Pathway to Excellence® Program standards, we’ve fostered an environment where nurses feel empowered, and they make their voices heard.”

Dena Andrew-Madden
MSN, RN

“The way forward is through centering the work in health equity and anti-racism that nursing can and should be doing. Nursing, of any profession, is in a unique position to put forth an anti-racist initiative that will help us to ensure diversity and impact our entire healthcare system.”

Sheldon Fields
PhD, RN, CRNP, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAAN, FAANP, FNAP

“Having the RN-BC credential is a plus for me. It means I’m dedicated to my work, focused on what I do, and gives me an advantage if I apply for a management position.”

Deepesh Subedi
RN-BC
"No one wakes up in the morning and says, 'Today I need the help of a nurse.' But life happens, and when unexpected healthcare events occur, registered nurses are with patients 24/7 every day of the year. The nursing profession stepped up during this pandemic, traveled to areas where the needs were greatest, gave up time with our own families to be at the side of the patients who needed our knowledge, skills, talents, compassion, and care. We have comforted grieving families who could not be with their family members who died too soon because of this pandemic. Add in the mental and physical toll the pandemic has had on the individuals who proudly carry the title of RN. We are two years into this pandemic, and individuals are still entering school to become RNs. We need to provide these new members of our remarkable profession the best opportunities to succeed in the workforce as well as support current RNs to continue fulfilling our unique role in addressing the needs of society."
In a year of enormous challenges and opportunities, the ANA Enterprise thanks all nurses for their dedication to patients and the profession. We deeply appreciate ANA members, nurses and organizations, and contributors who joined with us to create a healthy world through the power of nursing.