

# FAANP Mentoring Program Continues to Thrive

In 2006, the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners initiated the FAANP Mentoring Program. The initiatives of FAANP include the development of leadership and mentorship programs for nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students. The Mentoring Program provides a means through which FAANP can put this intent into action and contribute to the development of other NPs. Successful candidates to the program are paired with a FAANP member mentor. FAANP members are NP leaders who have been recognized for contributions in a range of areas including clinical practice, research, teaching, and health policy.

“The mentorship program was one of the first projects embraced by the Fellows,” said Judith Berg, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FAANP, and chair of FAANP. “Any nurse practitioner who is a member of AANP can apply and be linked with a Fellow through this program.”

A limited number of applicants are selected each year, based on a review of a submitted application. Applications include information such as: identification of specific goals and related plan of action, description of experience and qualities, and professional references. Applicants may be novice NPs or have significant experience with an identified plan for development in a new area. Selected mentees will be paired with a member of FAANP who has volunteered to assist them with development in their area of interest.

“There are several areas of interest that might be pursued,” she said. “Some people are looking for professional development, and to set a goal of writing a manuscript or a grant application. Others want mentoring in a particular area of clinical practice and some want mentoring in an area such as leadership or health policy.”

The FAANP Mentoring Program is a one-year program. During this period the mentors will serve as a guide or coach, assisting their mentees in achieving their identified plans of action and goals. While applicants may request a specific FAANP mentor, there is no guarantee that the requested Fellow will be available or able to participate.

“The process is that a member applies to the mentorship program and they are linked with a Fellow that has the expertise and is willing to be the mentor,” Berg said. “Together they develop goals and at the end of the year they have a completed project.”

A list of current Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners is on the AANP website ([www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org)).

Mentoring involves a formalized relationship, mutually beneficial to both participants. For success, both participants must share mutual respect and trust, as well as a commitment to the project. Mentors will have extensive knowledge, experience, and contacts in their field and have expressed willingness to contribute to the development

of others, through formal and supported experience. They will contribute to mentee development by sharing experience, knowledge, passion, connections, and/or influence. Successful mentees will have qualities such as flexibility, resourcefulness, and organization skills, as well as a passion for their identified area of growth.

Throughout the process, the relationship and ongoing communication will be supported by FAANP.

Each year, the mentoring experience begins with an orientation session scheduled during the AANP National Conference, held in June. During the orientation session, ground rules and expectations will be reviewed and the mentor—mentee pairs will have an opportunity to meet and share with one another. After meeting during the conference, the pairs will be able to communicate and share their progress through the year, participating in a Mentoring Program listserv. Quarterly progress reports will be required and the final report will include an evaluation of the mentoring relationship and program. Mentees then have an opportunity

to share the outcomes of their project at the next AANP National Conference.

“We’ve been doing this program for several years and it’s very strong, popular and growing,” Berg said.

Mentee applications for the 2010 FAANP Mentoring Program will be available on [www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org) in November 2009. The application packet includes a more detailed timeline for the one-year program.

## 2009 FAANP Mentoring Program Participants

The Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners congratulate the following Mentees and their Mentors for selection to the 2008 FAANP Mentoring Program:

### Mentees

Ms. Betty Cartwright  
Mr. Daniel Hartley  
Dr. Carmen Paniagua  
Dr. Lisa Chism  
Ms. Jan Zdanuk  
Ms. Karen Ketner  
Ms. Karen Kopan  
Ms. Kathy Willits  
Ms. Kelly Sanderson  
Ms. Louann Bailey  
Dr. Maria Kidner  
Ms. Nakisa Garris  
Dr. Tomika Harris

### Mentors

Dr. Randolph Rasch  
Dr. Judith Lynch  
Dr. Elias Vasquez  
Dr. Janice Davidson  
Dr. Susan Chaney  
Dr. Deb Kiley  
Dr. Mary Jo Goolsby  
Dr. Elizabeth Barker  
Dr. Elda Ramirez  
Ms. Mary Ellen Roberts  
Dr. Michael Zychowicz  
Dr. Penny Jensen  
Dr. Kathy Blair

## Q & A FROM THE CONFERENCE

What has been your favorite thing about the 2009 conference so far?



Philip Holton  
Roebuck, SC

“This morning I went to Pharmacotherapy in Men’s Health. It went over a lot of pertinent information. Most of it was review, but he was a good speaker.”



Karen D. Cummins-Marks  
Mount Juliet, TN

“Probably asthma. I did increase my knowledge. Also, I will be working with a population of people who have a high instance of asthma.”



Lorette Mitchem  
Greenville, SC

“Probably the Pesky Personality Disorders session. It was psych based and pertinent to primary care as well as people with primarily psych patients.”



Brittany Webb  
Nashville, TN

“The gyno one this morning—Refining Your Gynecologic Examination Skills—I thought she touched on a lot of things that aren’t very common and gave good advice about what to do.”



Sheila D. Riley  
Talihina, OK

“The ECG course, Analysis of the 12-Lead ECG, was my favorite. She broke it down and it all came together for me. The way she put it, I was realized, ‘Oh! That’s it!’”



Stephaine Matthews  
Fort Myers, FL

“The Exhibit Hall is my favorite. It’s a lot of up-to-date information and pertinent exhibits to see what is going on now.”



Pamela Crutchfield  
Columbia, GA

“There’s been quite a few. I liked the sports medicine and I did Pesky Personality Disorders yesterday, because I’m a psych nurse. That was great.”