

# WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPACT THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

BY: KELLY HUNT: PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION (2014 - 2015)

## Student Debt | Patient Care | Advocacy

Interprofessional collaboration has always been a personal passion for me. I've had the opportunity to do clinical rotations in hospitals that use a collaborative approach and I've seen the benefits. Interprofessional collaboration produces effective communication and better patient outcomes. The only way we will advance health care in the United States, is by working together.

### Passion

I first met Tripp Hines, Vice President for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), at the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) convention in Nashville, TN in 2014. After I was elected as NSNA's President, Tripp sent me a congratulatory email and we started corresponding. On a conference call between NSNA and AMSA, I presented the idea of having an Interprofessional Lobby Day on Capitol Hill for student leaders of National Led Organizations in health care. The idea was well received and I started to reach out to other national presidents via email and social media. I began working on this project in October of 2014. By February of 2015, students from nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, physician's assistants, and pharmacy were on board.

### How it all began



**Pictured Above (Front Row—L to R): Kelly Hunt (NSNA President), Nicole Lamoureux (AOTA Student Delegate Steering Committee), Melissa Ricker (SAAAPA President), Congressman David Price (North Carolina), Britani Kessler (AMSA President), and Karanita Fuller (SNPhA Remember the Ribbon Chair). Back Row: L to R: Tripp Hines (AMSA Vice President of Membership) and Chad Alcorn (AMSA member).**

## Making History

On February 26, 2015, our interprofessional collaboration project made history. For the first time, national student leaders from NSNA (nursing), AMSA (medicine), AOTA (occupational therapy), SNPhA (pharmacy), and SAAAPA (physician's assistants) came together in Washington D.C. to lobby for *Student Debt* and *Title 7*, in one united voice. We were well received in Washington as we discussed the current average student debt for each of our educational programs. We also advocated for interprofessional collaboration funding. We did 7 miles in





**Pictured Above (L to R): Karanita Fuller, Melissa Ricker, Tripp Hines, Kelly Hunt, & Nicole Lamoureux.**

## Our Purpose

Our purpose is to role model effective interprofessional collaboration for our members, nation's leaders, and our current and future patients.

"Interprofessional education is a collaborative approach to develop healthcare students as future interprofessional team members and a recommendation suggested by the Institute of Medicine. Complex medical issues can be best addressed by interprofessional teams. Training future healthcare providers to work in such teams will help facilitate this model resulting in improved healthcare outcomes for patients."

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3081249/>

the snow and were able to attend 12 appointments at the following offices:

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Senator Richard Burr          | 2. Senator Bob Corker         |
| 3. Senator Susan Collins         | 4. Congressman David E. Price |
| 5. Senator Thom Tillis           | 6. Congressman Darrell Issa   |
| 7. Senator Tim Kaine             | 8. Senator Barbara Boxer      |
| 9. Senator Lamar Alexander       | 10. Senator Diane Feinstein   |
| 11. Congressman Scott Desjarlais | 12. Senator Mark Warner       |

We offer many thanks to the National Student Nurses' Association staff for making our hill visit appointments and to the offices listed above for making time to meet with us.

## Onward

As the leaders of tomorrow, it is our professional and social responsibility to advocate for the future of health care. Reports from the Institute of Medicine and the National Institutes for Health show the importance of Interprofessional Collaboration and teamwork in the health care setting. With a collaborative approach, we can embrace diversity and effective communication. We encourage students in health care to get involved and make a difference!

Pictured Below (L to R): Karanita Fuller, Melissa Ricker, Tripp Hines, Nicole Lamoureux & Kelly Hunt.

