



HEAL Coalition ALERT: Commission on the Future of Higher Education Highlights Allied Health Demand

“Even as the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that 16 of the 30 fastest growing jobs in the next decade will be in the health professions, current and projected shortages in physicians, registered nurses, and other medical specialties may affect the quality of care for the increasingly aging population of Baby Boomers.”

“The U.S. must respond with public policies which encourage and channel capable students from diverse populations into the health care pipeline to become doctors, nurses, dentists, public health officers and related health professionals...”

The quotes above are excerpts from the second and third drafts of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education recommendations in response to Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings’ request that the 19-member panel examine access, affordability, quality and accountability in higher education.

The Commission’s findings state that “there are barriers to increasing institutional capacity and investment in innovation which will significantly affect our [nation’s] ability to address national workforce needs and compete in the global marketplace.” The Commission’s final report is due to be presented to Secretary Spellings and Congress in mid-September.

Congress must be reminded of the quality education and training private career colleges and schools provide to a large and growing segment of the allied health professions workforce. We must ensure that legislation impacting allied health is being developed with our interests, and those of the professionals we educate, in mind. Join the HEAL Coalition now, and through effective advocacy we can make a difference!

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information regarding the HEAL Coalition, contact Executive Director Tom Netting at (202) 626-8553.