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# Building Human Capital

## Building Human Capital

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## The Nurse as Health Care Innovator

A new video from the American Academy of Nursing highlights the efforts of nurse leaders in providing research-based solutions to the nation's health care problems.

January 12, 2009

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Eight years ago the Institutes of Medicine released *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health Care System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, which identified six goals for our nation's health care delivery system. Today we are still struggling to meet those goals which address patient safety, effectiveness, patient-centered care, timeliness of care delivery, efficiency and an equitable health care system. But a group of nurses who are part of an exciting Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded campaign are helping to lead the way in achieving them.

[View the Raise the Voice video.](#)

Launched in November 2007, The American Academy of Nursing's (AAN) *Raise the Voice* campaign is identifying and promoting innovative, affordable, coordinated and effective models of care.

Raise the Voice showcases research-based solutions developed by a cadre of nurses called "Edge Runners" who are bringing new thinking and new methods to a range of health care challenges.

"Nurses are the ideal health care providers to fashion solutions to our nation's health care problems," said AAN CEO and Raise the Voice Project Director Pat Ford-Roegner. "The nursing education model involves collaborating with other health professionals, engaging patients and families, and evaluating the ways care was provided. All these skills are crucial to finding solutions to the problems entrenched in our health care system."

Through Raise the Voice, AAN is sharing the innovations and accomplishments of the Edge Runners with policy makers at all levels of government and raising public awareness about the innovative and effective models they are pioneering.

Last summer, at a briefing on Capitol Hill, Edge Runner Mary Naylor, who leads the New Courtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania, discussed the Center's approach to transitioning elderly patients with multiple chronic diseases from one level of care to another across different providers and settings.

More recently, in meetings with Obama transition team members, Ford-Roegner shared profiles of the Edge Runners' successful and transformative models of care.

"This is an exciting time," Ford-Roegner said. "People are taking a serious look at new ways to



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ensure that all Americans have timely access to health care that is effective, safe and patient-centered. They're beginning to realize that we need to invest in innovative solutions and that nurses are not only crucial to the success of innovative health care models, many of them are developing those models."

"For instance," she continued, "at Naylor's Center they ask the patients, 'What is it that you'd like to be doing?' The answer can be, 'I'd like to play nine holes of golf' or 'I'd like to be able to walk to the corner store without pain and stiffness.' Then the health care providers work with their patients to help them meet those goals. That's how health care should work."

Raise the Voice is continuing to recruit and promote the work of Edge Runners all across the country. The campaign has completed the accompanying video about the Edge Runners, featuring Robert Wood Johnson Foundation President Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala.

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