

School of Health Professions : Nurse Anesthesia : Media



Nurse Anesthetists Deliver Important Message at Third Annual Lobby Day

Lindsey Jordan, SRNA, Andrew Sledge, SRNA, and Andrea Yoder, SRNA, organized the third annual Lobby Day on January 25, 2011.

The three students from KU's Nurse Anesthesia program worked closely with Kendra James, chair of the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists' public relations committee, to organize the session in conjunction with National Nurse Anesthetist Week. The effort was part of the students' capstone project: a degree requirement designed by students to benefit the program and/or the profession of nurse anesthesia, and to be completed during their third and final year in KU's MS in Nurse Anesthesia program.

With the largest turnout for the event to date, Lobby Day 2011 was extremely successful and provided a special opportunity for interaction with elected officials. Fifteen students and two faculty from the KU Department of Nurse Anesthesia Education were joined by representatives from Newman University, Texas Wesleyan University as well as other nurse anesthetists from across the state.



The event began with an informational session and breakfast in the offices of the Hein Lobby Group, the lobbyists for the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Lobby packets and thank-you cards were distributed, and participants headed to the capital building for appointments with elected officials.



The appointments with 13 representatives and 10 senators from districts across the state were utilized to educate and emphasize the importance of nurse anesthetists to health care in Kansas. The message was straight-forward: these professionals are essential to community health because they provide safe, cost-effective and high-quality anesthesia services to Kansans. And to illustrate this point, legislators received a map of Kansas showing the vast areas of service covered by nurse anesthetists.

At lunch, participants listened to Representative Brenda Landwehr, chair of the Health and Human Services committee for the Kansas House of Representatives. The remainder of the afternoon included additional appointments with legislators and provided the opportunity for the group from KU to observe the Kansas Senate in session.



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