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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2025

CCNE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ELECTS 2026 OFFICERS

Lori Escallier, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Dean and Professor, College of Nursing, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University, in Brooklyn, New York, has been re-elected Chair of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commissioners. Her second term in the role of Chair will commence on January 1, 2026.

At its meeting on September 16-18, 2025, in addition to re-electing Dr. Escallier as Chair, the CCNE Board elected the following individuals to leadership positions: Jean D'Meza Leuner, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN, Barbara S. Witt Professor and Dean in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Auburn University at Montgomery (Alabama), as Vice Chair; Giselle Holness, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, NE-BC, Director of the Nurse Practitioner Residency Program at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, as Treasurer; and Tina Martin, PhD, FNP-BC, Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, as Secretary. All officers are elected to one-year terms and may be re-elected to the office for a second term.

"There's much in store for the Commission, and I'm excited to continue working with CCNE's extraordinary volunteer corps, nursing program leaders, and other stakeholders from around the country in the year ahead," said Dr. Escallier, following the election of officers. "We will continue to invest heavily in educational programming to support program administrators and on-site evaluators and complete the scheduled review of the accreditation standards for entry-to-practice nurse residency programs. Activities such as these are essential as we remain true to our commitment as the premier accrediting body for nursing education and nurse residency and fellowship programs."

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of the public's health. CCNE strives to promote the quality and integrity of baccalaureate, graduate, and residency/fellowship programs in nursing. As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuous quality improvement in nursing education and nurse residency/fellowship programs.

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