AACN looks forward to welcoming members to the 2022 Deans Annual Meeting, which will take place at The Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC, March 26-28. Those who prefer to join virtually are welcome to participate online. This event is open to the primary dean/chair/director of AACN member schools.

This year’s meeting will feature keynote speaker Anna Quindlen, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author and a former columnist for The New York Times. Ms. Quindlen will speak on “Health Care in an Information Age: How Both Healthcare Providers and Consumers Can Help One Another Improve Living and Learning.”

In addition, the Geraldine “Polly” Bednash Lectureship Award will be presented to Dr. George Thibault, former president of The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Dr. Thibault will address emerging trends in health professions education.

Among other meeting highlights is a panel discussion on “Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care.” The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Linda McCauley, dean and professor at Emory University’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, and Dr. Robert L. Phillips, founding executive director, Center for Professionalism and Value in Health Care.

A new dean and member orientation will be held on the first day of the meeting (March 26), as will a meet-and-greet for first-time attendees. Like-schools discussions, exhibits, and an evening welcome reception will take place on Sunday, March 27. Networking breaks will take place each day of the meeting.

For more details and information (including safety information), and to register for the meeting (either in-person or virtual), visit the Deans Annual Meeting page of the AACN website.
Congratulations to R. Shavon Clark, DNP Student, University of South Florida, and Nadia Oyama, DNP Student, Chaminade University of Honolulu, on receiving the 2022 American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Substance Use Disorders Evidence-Based Practice Training Award.

R. Shavon Clark was selected for her project, Increasing Access to Treatment for Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder: A Quality Improvement Project. Shavon is an AANP-certified practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with experience treating patients with substance use disorder in inpatient and outpatient settings. In 1999, she began her professional nursing career as a high school dual enrollment student after acceptance to a competitive accelerated practical nursing program. Over the past two decades, she completed an ASN degree from Valencia College in 2003, a BSN degree from the University of Phoenix in 2009, and an MSN from South University in 2016. While completing her nursing education, Shavon worked as a registered nurse in several nursing areas, including psychiatry and substance use, med/surg, long-term care, home care, case management, and a variety of nursing leadership roles. Shavon is currently seeking a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of South Florida (USF) and plans to graduate in August 2022. She is an adjunct faculty member at USF College of Nursing and contributes to the preparation of both undergraduate and graduate nursing students. In 2016, she was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and is currently a member of several community service-focused organizations.

Her quality improvement project seeks to increase referrals leading to treatment access for pregnant women with opioid disorder in a community in southwest Florida where she is currently a buprenorphine-waivered provider medication-assisted treatment. This project aims to assist in closing the identified gap in access to treatment for pregnant women with substance use disorder in Florida.

Nadia Oyama has worked for over 15 years in the field of psychiatric mental health nursing. Nadia has been a psychiatric nurse since 2015 after graduating with her BSN from Chaminade University of Honolulu. While working as a psychiatric nurse in the Emergency Department at the Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu, she was accepted into the Inaugural PMHNP-DNP program at Chaminade University in 2021 with a planned graduation date of 2024. Nadia is currently an ANCC certified psychiatric nurse and an instructor for non-violent crisis intervention in her organization.

Nadia has always had an interest in substance abuse disorder as it has ravaged through her island home impacting a large Native Hawaiian population as well as friends and family. In Hawaii, substance abuse is a substantial problem affecting people across the lifespan, and the problem is getting increasingly worse. In Nadia’s experience substance abuse is one of the major contributing factors to emergency room visits, hospitalizations, job loss, houselessness, worsening medical comorbidities, and prolonged symptoms of psychosis. There is a stigma around substance abuse, with many people not understanding addiction and substance abuse as a disease, which unfortunately in some cases prevents nursing staff from providing unbiased care and treatment.

Nadia is currently working on a presentation to educate nursing students, faculty, and clinicians about the use of SBIRT to disseminate this tool across Hawaii’s nursing schools and healthcare facilities with the outcome being an increase in early access to substance abuse treatment, prolonged abstinence from substance use, and improvement in the patient’s ability to become functioning members in society. Education will bring more awareness to the problem, provide proper ways of addressing a person suffering from substance abuse, and eventually decrease the stigma thus growing future compassionate nurses and community leaders.

Nadia currently resides in Kaneohe, Hawaii with her husband and 3 children. Nadia enjoys spending quality family time at the ocean and watching her children excel in sports and growing their dreams.
Q&A with Danielle McCamey

**DANIELLE McCAMEY, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FCCP**

Dr. Danielle McCamey is the founder, CEO, and president of DNPs of Color, Inc., a nonprofit national organization that builds community for nurses of color through networking, mentorship, and advocacy to increase diversity in doctoral studies, clinical practice, and leadership. Since being operationalized in 2020, the group has grown to nearly 2,000 professionals, which includes DNP-prepared nurses, DNP students, and aspiring DNPs. In addition, she is the co-creator and chair of the Doctoral Nurses Collaborative, a group that joins DNP and PhD prepared nurses throughout the current healthcare system. She has nearly 20 years of nursing experience and has worked for more than a decade as a board-certified acute care nurse practitioner.

She received her BSN from the University of Virginia, and both her Master of Science in Acute Care Advanced Practice and DNP from Georgetown University.

Dr. McCamey is a national speaker in the areas of DEI and palliative care, and she contributed to AACN’s Faculty DEI toolkit as the designer.

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**What prompted you to become a nurse practitioner?**

I was prompted to become a nurse practitioner by my great-uncle Mike. He had made mention that the tide of health care was tipping in a favorable way towards advanced practice and that the needs in primary and preventative health care were going to increase as time passed. At the time, my institution had a scholarship program for nurses to apply for advanced practice programs. I took advantage of that benefit and was able to work full-time while attending NP school part-time.

**What was the impetus for the founding of DNPs of Color?**

DNPs of Color came from my own doctoral studies experience. In my cohort at the time, I was the only Black woman. With that came the weight of responsibility of being the first in my family to pursue a doctorate and the pressure to succeed and prove my worth of being in that space. I craved a community that understood my story and also the DNP journey that I was on. I looked for existing organizations that focused on nurses of color pursuing a DNP. Unfortunately, I could not find one. It was then that I decided to create a Facebook group. I literally put it together unaware of the magnitude it would have in filling a much-needed gap for a growing body of professionals in nursing. Within a couple of months, we had hundreds of folks who were DNP prepared, DNP students, or aspiring DNPs join the group. They felt seen, validated, and everyone unanimously agrees it has been a community where individuals are inspired, empowered, and most importantly, have a sense of belonging. As people flooded our group with requests, it became apparent from this energy and enthusiasm that this was more than your typical social media group, but a movement that will one day make a significant impact in the nursing profession.

**What is the mission and vision of DNPs of Color?**

Our mission is to serve DNPs of Color through networking, mentorship, and advocacy to increase diversity in doctoral studies, clinical practice, and leadership.

Our vision is to inspire, empower, and transform the landscape of nursing by increasing diversity in doctoral nursing practice.

**How does one become a member of your organization?**

Currently, we can be found on all social media outlets. The best way to stay connected for now is following us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Twitter. However, this spring we will be transitioning to a membership-based organization. Stay tuned for those details on our website.

**What are some of the unique challenges for those who are DNPs of color?**

We have a variety of discussions around DNPs of color’s unique challenges. The most common one is that the majority of us are first-generation to pursue and/or obtain a doctoral degree. In fact, specifically within DOCs, 80% of our members identify as such. Also, we often are either the first or the only person of color in our respective areas from academia, clinical practice, or leadership. I believe this is largely due to the fact that some of our pathways might not have afforded us the network or mentorship to attain certain levels of growth, promotion, accolades, advantages, or opportunities within the nursing profession. I’ll speak from my experience in that we often tend to be alone in navigating spaces and places where there is no one that looks like us or where no one that looks like us has ever gone. We are so grateful for the opportunity to get access to this level and tend to put a lot of energy into maintaining that role. At some point, this limits our awareness of the breadth of opportunities and resources available. If we are fortunate enough to work in an institution that fosters the growth and

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Q&A with Danielle McCamey

development of our professional career or find mentorship, we can be better positioned to cultivate our untapped potential to expand and soar.

How important are mentors in nursing?

Mentors are the key to unlocking a lot of the secrets in nursing. Having more than one mentor is most beneficial to diversify perspectives, expand your network, and support circle. I recommend having a mentor for all the different aspects of life. It is also important to note that mentors will come and go as you grow and evolve, so it is important to honor and recognize that in the mentorship life cycle.

What can schools of nursing do to improve the recruitment of underrepresented students?

Schools have to be deliberate in meeting students of color where they are. That means looking at strategies to partner and collaborate with organizations from churches, schools, sports teams, etc., and making meaningful investments in the community to establish a consistent connection. In addition, nursing has to acknowledge the structural racism that has disadvantaged communities of color. As a result, our pathways may not be the “traditional” route to nursing school and there needs to be more knowledge and acceptance of these unique ways created to nursing. Within the DOCs community conversations, some solutions offered are that institutions need to focus on recruitment and retention simultaneously. The efforts to recruit future nursing students from historically excluded communities will likely be less successful if there is not an environment that fosters community and support to ensure their success while matriculating in these programs. Providing resources that are readily available and accessible is also important. Schools of nursing have to be deliberate and intentional regarding how curricula are created, diversifying faculty, creating affinity groups for students of color, and elevating the work of scholars of color, just to name a few things. A lot of this work in creating this space should include partnerships with groups such as DNP’s of Color, Diversity CRNA, and all the organizations within the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations to provide guidance and insight to meet the needs of potential nursing students of color.

What is one of the biggest challenges ahead as we try to make the nursing workforce more diverse?

The biggest challenge is getting everyone to see and accept how racism has plagued nursing and how that contributes to the way we educate, recruit, retain, and train future nurses. If we don’t challenge, dismantle, and put forth real actionable changes to the structure, we will continue in this perpetual cycle that causes us to question why the nursing workforce is not more diverse.
News & Information

AACN’S NURSING VOICES, NURSING VOTES INITIATIVE CONTINUES IN 2022

AACN is pleased to announce the third biennial Nursing Voices, Nursing Votes, a nonpartisan initiative to encourage, educate, and engage nursing deans, faculty, and students as they amplify their voices during the 2022 midterm elections. Having received nearly 1,000 commitments to register to vote since the 2018, AACN looks forward to gaining even more support this year.

Nursing Voices, Nursing Votes informs AACN deans, faculty, and students on upcoming primary dates, registration deadlines, absentee ballot information, and a countdown to the midterm elections on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Additionally, state-by-state voting resources will be provided on the AACN website, and participation will be tracked both by state and school with the three highest performing schools receiving recognition. You can also follow this initiative on Twitter @AACNursing and @AACNPolicy NursingVoicesNursingVotes.

AACN encourages deans and faculty to designate time during orientations or policy classes for students to register to vote and join the Nursing Voices, Nursing Votes conversation as we countdown to November 8. By working with deans, faculty, and students, Nursing Voices, Nursing Votes helps ensure that they have access to the resources necessary to participate in local, state, and federal elections. Your voice and vote matters!

EVOLVE AS A LEADER: APPLY FOR ELAN

The Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing (ELAN) is a program designed for aspiring deans and senior faculty in leadership roles. This new program provides participants with a focused assessment experience, a range of content and exercises related to successful executive leadership, and the opportunity to establish a peer network that fosters long-term partnerships and collegial support.

ELAN is a year-long fellowship and will kick off with an in-person week-long workshop. ELAN participants will take advantage of a leadership immersion, which includes peer coaching, team-building, and advanced simulations. After the on-site event, participants will have access to an online community, two 4-hour e-learning workshops, and peer group discussions. Additional services that will support the fellowship may be added to the experience, such as coaching and mentoring, at an additional cost.

Who Should Apply

The purpose of ELAN is to enhance the executive leadership skills of individuals in administrative and leadership positions who aspire to lead the nursing academic unit.

Applications are due March 15.

CNL SUMMIT TRANSITIONS TO VIRTUAL EVENT

Given the current surge in COVID-19 cases caused by the highly contagious Omicron variant, AACN has made the difficult decision to transition the CNL Summit to a fully virtual event. The Summit will be held February 17-19. This year’s theme is A Contemporary Look at the Clinical Nurse Leader: Versatility and Leadership.

The Summit provides a forum for both healthcare and academic audiences to showcase achievements in implementing the CNL role in education and practice. Whether your institution has adopted the CNL model or is exploring new ways to achieve quality outcomes, the CNL Summit will provide tools to enhance your understanding of the changing healthcare environment and the value added by CNLs. Deans, faculty, CNOs, nurse managers, other health professionals, practicing CNLs, and students are encouraged to attend.

Visit AACN’s website for full details and information on the 2022 CNL Summit.
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Faculty Positions

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, a nationally recognized leader in graduate nursing education, research and innovation, seeks diverse and talented professionals who are dedicated to raising up the next generation of nurse leaders and advancing knowledge and science.

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) invites applications for full-time faculty positions in its Tenure/Tenure Track program, as well as its Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Programs.

**Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty Openings:**
- VUSN Endowed Chair Positions
- Tenure Track Positions

See additional available position(s) with full descriptions and qualifications including application links at: https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/faculty_staff/employopp.php

Interested candidates should submit materials using the application link. Screening of applicants begins immediately and applications are accepted until the position is filled. All inquiries, submitted materials, and correspondence are confidential.

VUSN is a leader in education, practice and research/scholarship, and currently ranked as the No. 8 MSN program in the country by *U.S. News and World Report* and its Doctor of Nursing Practice program ranked No. 6.

**Vanderbilt University has a strong institutional commitment to recruiting and retaining an academically and culturally diverse community of faculty. Minorities, individuals with disabilities, and members of other underrepresented groups, in particular, are encouraged to apply.**

**Vanderbilt University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.**

**The final candidate for this position must successfully complete a background check.**

**Vanderbilt University COVID-19 protocols required.**
AACN’S LEADERSHIP EDUCATION MODULES

AACN has created Leadership Education Modules, an on-demand series to offer guidance and practical strategies on how to navigate real-world challenges and amplify your effectiveness. Content is designed to stimulate fresh thinking and provide solutions to some of your most pressing challenges. The modules will enrich your understanding of key principles and practices needed for leaders to succeed in the academic arena. Those that complete all four modules are eligible to receive 11.5 continuing education credits.

For more information, contact AACN Director of Academic Nursing Development Cynthia Leaver, cleaver@aacnnursing.org.
opportunities

upcoming aacn conferences

Nursing Advancement Professionals (NAP) Conference
March 25-26 | Washington, DC
Register Now

Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals (GNAP) Conference
April 4-5 | Salt Lake City, UT
Register Now

Business Officers of Nursing Schools (Bonus) Annual Conference
April 20-22 | Denver, CO
Register Now

About Syllabus

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