



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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September 2023



An interview with

Maria Shirey, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, ANEF, FACHE, FNAP, FAAN

Please share with us a summary of your career path.

I started my career as a staff nurse in critical care nursing following completion of a critical care nurse internship program and with deep interest in cardiovascular nursing. I grew professionally first as a clinician, then a clinical and academic educator, and subsequently as an administrator across the health care continuum. After having served for several decades as a nurse executive, I pursued a PhD in nursing with a focus on leadership and health services outcomes research. My PhD program changed my life and opened opportunities for me to immerse myself in education, research, scholarship, and practice leading me to make a full-time shift to academia where as a tenured professor my emphasis has been in leadership science. In 2022, I achieved a career milestone becoming Dean of the UAB School of Nursing and Fay B. Ireland Endowed Chair in Nursing.

Is there a highlight of which you are most proud?

I am most proud of the countless students and colleagues I have mentored and inspired as nurse leaders over the course of my career. It brings me great joy to see these individuals who are now making a difference in the world and paying it forward for others.

What is your connection with ALSN?



My areas of scientific inquiry focus on leadership science and health services outcomes research. I have been a member of ALSN since 2009, and members of this organization are my long-time colleagues and friends. Over the course of the last two decades, I have attended the ALSN meeting almost yearly and presented my work at numerous ALSN conferences across the country. I have also served on the ALSN board of directors as VP for Research during Patricia Yoder-Wise's tenure as president. In 2016, I was the recipient of the inaugural Suzanne Smith Memorial Award for Writing Excellence.

Your keynote topic at the ALSN 2023 conference focuses on international concerns with DEI. Would you share a “teaser” with us about this topic and your panel presentation?

My contribution to the panel presentation will be to share how nurse leaders can collaborate to advance both nursing leadership and promote the value of nursing across the globe, doing so with a lens of cultural humility.

What are three things about you personally that you would like the ALSN membership to know?

I have been married to my husband, Dan, for 40 years, am the proud mother of three grown sons, and have four beautiful grandchildren.