



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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member SPOTLIGHT

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An interview with

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ALSAN VP of Membership & Leadership Succession

Tell us a little about your career path, background, and passion for advancing the science of nursing leadership.

Nursing leadership has been the foundation of my nursing career. As a new nurse starting out on a medical floor in the 80's, I quickly learned of the gaps in quality and safety and the need for leadership from every nurse to change the status quo. Realizing that education was power, I returned to graduate school and got my masters degree and taught at Kent State University. This experience was impactful as I realized the importance of research as another source of power, I then went back to school again for my PhD at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing. I was mentored by great nurse leaders -- Dean Dr. Joyce Fitzpatrick, Dean Dr. May Wykle, and my mentor Dr. Shirley Moore, who all instilled in me the awareness that we are all nurse leaders who have the power to improve nursing and patient care. Through my intense research years as John A. Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Capacity fellow and then as an NIH K12 Scholar, I built relationships and advanced science in geriatric issues. Although my research career was successful, I was always lured into improving clinical operations to ensure that patients received evidence-based, high quality and safe care. I served in many capacities to improve quality and safety as the lead faculty member at the Cleveland

VA and then the national nurse consultant for the VA Quality Scholars Fellowship and then the Director of the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Institute (2012-2022). Currently, I serve as the Sarah C. Hirsh Endowed Associate Professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and Associate Professor at the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. In my current roles I am able to facilitate my vision of academic-practice partnerships to advance science and care delivery to ensure that safe, quality care is delivered.

How has your involvement in ALSN influenced your career trajectory – what has been most valuable?

The most valuable component of being a part of ALSN is the networking with the community of nurse leaders who understand the importance of nurse leadership. I am very honored to serve as the VP of Membership and Succession as spreading the opportunities that are available through ALSN membership will bring in more nurses who will continue with this important work in greater numbers.

What doors have opened to you as a result of your involvement in ALSN?

I have been so impressed with the current board and most importantly with the members. The presentations and posters at the last conference demonstrated the impact that focusing on leadership has on healthcare organizations, patients, families and communities. I am honored to be selected as a new Board member.

What would you say to nurse leaders in academia or practice who are considering joining ALSN right now?

My Message to Nurses: Join ALSN to experience the power of Leadership in Research, Academia, and Practice!

How did you become interested in the study of nursing leadership and how has ALSN influenced this interest?

My enthusiasm to learn more about nursing leadership was ignited as I realized the importance of leadership (frontline to boardroom) in facilitating practice change. I believe that nursing is at an important juncture to contribute to the implementation of evidence into practice and to lead improvements in quality and safety in healthcare. Leadership is the key.

Specific to nursing leadership, how can we create a better balance between academic and practice partners? How can ALSN assist with this partnership?

Membership in ALSN serves as a unique opportunity to synergize academic and clinical partnerships. The current membership pipeline comes from both academia and practice (including DNP and PhD), and the activities, conferences, and networking are targeted to blend the strengths from both perspectives. In addition, my past experience working with the Nurse Practitioner leaders from the MinuteClinics in CVS locations opened my eyes to the power of academic-clinical partnerships to

work together to not only improve care delivery, but also study it so that mechanisms and strategies can be shared and science advanced!

What is the one thing you would like ALSN members to know?

It is important for ALSN members to know that growing our membership is very important, and attracting emerging scientists and academicians to learn and expand our knowledge in Nursing Leadership Science is an essential component of the future.