



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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An Interview With

**Betsy Frank, PhD RN ANEF
Professor Emerita,
Indiana State University**

Betsy's career path closely aligned with her husband's military career traversing many states across the nation. After graduating from The Ohio State University with her undergraduate degree, she crisscrossed the country from Ohio to Seattle Washington, San Antonio Texas, Goldsboro, North Carolina, Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Utah. Along the way, she earned her master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a doctoral degree in educational administration from the University of Utah.

Betsy experienced many notable firsts along the way, starting a nursing journal club in her first job as a registered nurse at Mt. Sinai in Cleveland Ohio, creating her own position as the first master's prepared nurse at Waynesboro Hospital in Goldsboro, NC, and serving on many committees in her first doctoral position in Dayton, Ohio. However, it was her tenure as the head of a small associate degree in nursing program in Alamogordo, New Mexico where she discovered academic leadership as her likely career path in academia. Her inquisitive nature while observing the inner workings of organizations drove her to ask questions, eventually leading her to the study of nursing leadership where she completed her doctoral dissertation focusing on the job satisfaction of deans as associated with organizational structure. During her 25-year tenure at Indiana State University, Betsy became an expert in online teaching. Additionally, Betsy served as Associate Director of the NLN CNEA, nursing's newest nursing education accreditation agency.

It was while teaching nursing administration courses at Wright State University, that the then acting Dean encouraged Betsy to get involved with ALSN (then CGEAN). In 1995, Betsy became CGEAN's treasurer, operating out of boxes in her home! Betsy has remained a loyal, supportive, continuous member of ALSN since the mid-eighty's (except for a brief time while living in Spain). Betsy has always enjoyed the intimate, small nature of the ALSN organization where she "really gets to talk to people" and connect to other people, notable people with other experiences that can help advance your career.

Moving forward, Besty feels it is important for members of ALSN to engage in collaborative research to facilitate a better balance between academic and practice partners. Additionally, invite practice partners into the classroom (virtual or face-to-face) and connect current leaders with students to help make connections.

So, what would Besty like ALSN members to know about her? First, she has had a great career! Second, retirement's fun, but she must keep her hands in the business (loves the Research Committee). Third, she is a committed volunteer! She encourages members to make sure you stay connected to a couple of organizations to network for your career!