



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

3416 Primm Lane
Birmingham, AL 35216
205-823-6106
<http://alsn.info>
office@alsn.email



March 2024



An Interview With

**Todd B. Smith, PhD, MSHA, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, Associate Professor,
The University of Alabama; ALSN Treasurer**

Todd Smith is quite an asset to our organization as the Treasurer/Chair of the ALSN Finance Committee. Dr. Smith earned his BSN and started graduate school at the University of Alabama (UAB) in health administration. After graduating with his Masters in Science in Health Administration and Masters in Business Administration, he worked for nearly 18 years as a healthcare and college administrator, mostly at UAB. While he was not directly involved in nursing during this time, he often managed nurses and was responsible for managing the finances including annual budgets and routine expenditures. While working in administration at UAB, he became interested in research and entered a PhD program.

During his graduate studies, he became interested in organizational science, including the evolution of management and leadership. He read the works of Frederick Taylor and Adam Smith leaders during the Industrial Revolution and the work of theorists Max Weber and Mary Parker Follet who pushed for “expertise” during the mid-20th century. Current favorites of Todd are Peter Drucker and Douglas McGregor who published work on knowledge, motivation, and engagement. After his graduation, the University of Alabama recruited him to help start their MSN Nurse Administrator program. It was during this time that his passion for nursing leadership science was ignited!

He found his “tribe” at the 2020 ALSN conference as it supported his interests in administration and leadership. Membership in the ALSN has opened many doors for Dr. Smith. The professional

connections that he has made afforded him the opportunity to build partnerships. These partnerships led to publications and a book chapter. Relationships from ALSN members helped him to receive tenure at the University of Alabama as they wrote letters of recommendations for his promotion. Because of all the mentoring he received from ALSN members, he is now an avid advocate inspiring other nurse leaders to join ALSN. He shares with faculty members that the benefits of ALSN membership includes learning new ways to teach in nurse leadership or administration programs. For practitioners, he believes that ALSN offers opportunities to explore the latest research regarding nursing leadership science or work with others to develop projects related to leadership science.

Todd believes that membership in ALSN, provides a network with others who share similar interest in leadership, providing a way to stay on top of the latest in the field of management and leadership. He state that ALSN is a great home to expand academic-practice partnership and a great place to cultivate this work. Todd states that the best academic-practice partnerships have occurred with his DNP students, several of whom he has introduced to ALSN. This has also given him the opportunities to work with practice partners on research projects and it keeps him current with issues in the hospitals and clinical sites.

His message to the ALSN community is to Get INVOLVED! He encourages all members to reach out to any board member or committee member to find about the opportunities.. If committee work is not a good fit, Todd states that the annual meeting is a great place to network and socialize with a great group of professionals who share similar interests.