



member SPOTLIGHT



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

I went to The Ohio State University at a time when a bachelor's degree was rare in nursing. After I completed my master's degree, I worked for the Ohio Nurses Association, where I met some of nursing's key leaders. I then went to service, did some consulting, and led a nursing education program in Michigan before moving to Colorado and then to Texas. Along the way, I learned that leadership – either paid or volunteer—was a key to making a difference. In CGEAN, now ALSN, the idea of advancing scholarship in multiple ways so we could be more useful and serve members so they could advance the mission and vision was appealing.

2. How has your involvement in ALSN influenced your career trajectory – what has been most valuable about it?

Networks of people is a key benefit of ALSN. If we have a question or need an article on something, we never have to make a 'cold call'; we know each other from meetings, and we know presenters and those wanting their work to get out.

We got a preview of people's work and it was stimulating to think about what we could do with that new knowledge. I think about our Canadian colleagues and their incredible work. They had tons of research they provided at our meetings. I advocated for an annual meeting primarily because they had graduates every year and we were missing out every other year on their research.

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

It is connecting in intimate ways that allows us to know each other. If you are well connected you don't know who opened what doors.. It's a spider web of interaction.

4. Let's look at our vision of the future. If you were in a hot air balloon 5-10 years from now looking down on our ALSN colleagues, what would our membership be doing?

I hope we would be seen as the reliable and valid source of the cutting edge in leadership. There are not that many of us so we must energize the potential – and ask – what am I capable of? And if we are going to tell our stories, the story should be "the difference we made". ALSN allowed me to make a difference; I think it can for each of our members.

