

# 50<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING ANNIVERSARY

1973 – 2023

## **American Academy of Nursing President Positions the Organization for Greater Policy Impact**

*Kenneth R. White, a Champion for Philanthropy, Announced the President's Fund for Policy Investment, a Matching Fundraising Campaign today at the Academy's Health Policy Conference*

**Washington, DC (October 5, 2023)** – Today, the American Academy of Nursing (Academy) hosted its [50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration](#) during its [2023 Health Policy Conference](#), *Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership, Policy, and Partnerships*. In honor of the Academy's golden anniversary year, **President Kenneth R. White, PhD, APRN-BC, FACHE, FAAN** announced [The President's Fund for Policy Investment](#). Over the past five decades, the Academy and its Fellows have had lasting impact on health policy—especially improving health and health equity for communities locally and globally. Since 1973, the Academy has welcomed nearly 3,000 Fellows, commissioned 23 Expert Panels to develop policy recommendations based on nursing knowledge, and founded three signature initiatives—the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, Edge Runners, and the Institute of Nursing Leadership—to further integrate nursing science, innovation, and leadership into sound policy decisions.

Dr. White first garnered support from all [past presidents](#) of the Academy to establish [The President's Fund for Policy Investment](#), which will help fund the future work of the organization. He requested that they pool their collective contributions, resulting in donations totaling \$36,500 to launch the campaign - with a plan to appeal to the Fellows and donors to match this amount to generate gifts totaling \$73,000 – which is fitting as 2023 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. In April 1973, the 36 Charter Fellows held their first meeting to establish the governing council and Rheba de Tornyay (the namesake of the Academy's annual development fund) was elected as the Academy's inaugural President.

Philanthropy has been a distinct and highly successful focus of Dr. White's presidency. He secured the largest major gift in Academy history (\$100,000) from a Fellow based on alignment of this individual donor's interest in amplifying nursing knowledge in policy and the organization's mission. Under Dr. White's leadership, the Academy contracted a philanthropy and fundraising consulting firm to assess the organization's philanthropic capacity and advise on best practices to ensure valued current donors, as well as future ones, are aware of the difference their support makes. The firm's report identified some key areas in which the Academy can strengthen its community and culture of philanthropy, both within and outside the organization, including launching a 50th anniversary matching campaign.





“As the 29<sup>th</sup> President of the American Academy of Nursing, during our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and my 50<sup>th</sup> year in nursing, I want to look to our future. Fundamentally, the Academy is a policy organization. Our Fellows, nursing’s foremost experts, are selected because of their ability to use nursing science to influence health policy. The Academy has engaged in more than fifty direct policy actions this year, and during my tenure as President, more than one hundred actions on issues ranging from gender affirming care, to preventing gun violence, safe reproductive care, and bolstering the nursing workforce. Our Academy voice is reaching policy makers in Congress and the Administration,” said Dr. White. “As the Board of Directors considers our new strategic plan in 2024, we intend to strengthen this outreach and create organizational infrastructure needed to do so. This matching campaign is an investment that will elevate the expertise of our Fellowship before the highest levels of government to ensure that we are Nurses Out Loud!”

The Academy mission is to improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science. Dr. White’s announcement and the investment by the organization’s past presidents demonstrates that the Academy’s central goal— to be a leader for the public and develop equitable policy solutions— is amplified. Learn more about the Academy’s [policy impact](#).

Please join the Academy in recognizing Dr. White’s philanthropic work as he finishes his presidential term and ensures the [organization](#) continues to convene, recognize, and celebrate the nursing profession’s most distinguished leaders. [Learn more about the campaign](#) and to help support the Academy’s ability to improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science.

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### About the American Academy of Nursing

[The American Academy of Nursing](#) serves the public by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With more than 2,900 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing’s most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

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