

Iowa Chapter of NAPNAP October Newsletter *Advancing Pediatric Healthcare Together*

Greetings, Iowa NAPNAP Members!

As fall colors begin to brighten our Iowa landscape, we're excited to bring you the latest updates from the Iowa Chapter of NAPNAP. From a successful annual conference to upcoming advocacy and networking events, we are energized by your continued dedication and involvement. Let's dive into what's happening in our chapter.

Conference Recap: A Huge Thank You!

Our **Annual Iowa Chapter Conference** took place on **September 18–19** at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City. It was a fantastic two days filled with **engaging speakers, valuable vendors, and incredible attendees**.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated—we couldn't have done it without you!

One of our goals this year was to raise funds for **Operation Santa**, an initiative through [Foster Squad](#) that brings holiday joy to children in foster care. Your support helped us take a meaningful step toward making the season brighter for these children. We were able to donate **\$285!**

Member Spotlight: Mikayla Siddell

Please join us in celebrating **Mikayla Siddell**, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-PC, Treasurer, one of our outstanding members! Mikayla continues to make meaningful contributions in pediatric care and advocacy. We're proud to have her in our chapter and look forward to seeing her continued impact in our field. A little about Mikayla below:

Hometown: Solon, IA

Education: BA – University of Iowa; BSN- Mercy College of Health Sciences; MSN- University of Iowa; DNP – University of Iowa

Current position: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in primary care at the University of Iowa. Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing

Nursing experience: 2.5 years as a NICU nurse, 2 years teaching at Kirkwood Community College and the University of Iowa College of Nursing,

Special nursing interests: Sports Medicine, Student Athletes

Family and pets: My husband and I live in Solon, IA with our son (1yr). We both grew up in Solon and are currently building our forever home. We have a house full of fur babies: 3 cats and 1 golden retriever.

Hobbies: I have been a volleyball coach for 5 years. I enjoy playing in sand and grass leagues and tournaments in the area. I also enjoy working out, traveling, being outside with the family, and doing DIY projects.

Why did you become involved in Iowa NAPNAP? This is my first year on the board for IANAPNAP. I became involved because I enjoy community outreach. As pediatric-focused providers, we are experts in our field and in a unique position to advocate for and support children across Iowa. Being part of this organization allows us to make a meaningful impacts by educating families, influencing policy, and promoting child health at a broader level. Additionally, being apart of this organization allows you to meet amazing people across the country whose goals are the same. The collaboration and mentorships are endless.

What is something people do not know about you? I was in the United States Navy for 8 years. I spent most of my time in a medical expeditionary unit working alongside all kinds of medical professionals from the US and other countries. In college, I got the opportunity to study aboard in Spain for a surgical shadowing fellowship over the summer. As well as take several mission trips across the US and in other countries. These experiences were eye-opening and allowed me to see the different global healthcare systems from another perspective. I have always loved to travel and hope to continue experiencing new adventures.

Upcoming: Lunch and Learn with Amy Campbell

Topic: *Setting the Stage: 2026 Legislative Strategy & Priorities*

When: Thursday, November 6th | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Virtual Event

Amy Campbell, MPP Partner at The Advocacy Cooperative, will join us to:

- Review the **current state political landscape**
- Discuss **leadership priorities for 2026**
- Highlight **Iowa NAPNAP's advocacy goals**
- Explore **individual and organizational strategies for change**

Don't miss this important opportunity to get involved and informed!

Join via Zoom: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 945 8839 5774 | Passcode: 724983

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Events

Next Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, **November 12** at **7:30 PM**

Location: In person at **Stephany Walk's home** (35 Olive Ct, Iowa City)

Or join via Zoom: [Join Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 972 0743 4675 | Passcode: 918778

Iowa Chapter Student Social

Date: Wednesday, **December 3** | **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Location: **ReUnion Brewery**, Coralville, IA

Sign up here: <https://evite.me/HWHGzT8pMG>

Invite any **students** interested in pediatric nursing or connecting with nurse practitioners. It's a great time to learn about the chapter, network, and enjoy good company.

Day at the Capitol

Date: Tuesday, **January 27** | **12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

Location: Iowa State Capitol, North & East Wings


Join us for this exciting opportunity to **advocate for pediatric health policy**! A **Sign-Up Genius** from Mary Drury will be shared soon — keep an eye out!

Scholarship & Grant Opportunities

We are excited to offer **scholarships** and a **research grant** to support our members and students:

- **NAPNAP National Conference Scholarship for students**
- **Graduate-level (DNP) Project Scholarship for students**
- **Research Grant** for active research projects

To apply or get more information, please email **Samantha Lee** at:


 samantha-b-lee@uiowa.edu



Preceptors Needed!

The **University of Iowa College of Nursing** is looking for **Pediatric Nurse Practitioner preceptors** in the **Iowa City** and **Des Moines** areas.

If you're interested or know someone who would be a great preceptor, please reach out to Samantha Lee at:


 samantha-b-lee@uiowa.edu

Thank you for your continued commitment to our pediatric patients, our profession, and each other. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

With gratitude,

Samantha Lee, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-AC

President, Iowa NAPNAP Chapter

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