NASN Elections 2021

Candidate Data and Statement of View

Secretary/Treasurer

Valerie Beshears, MSN, RN, NCSN

Current NASN Affiliate:  Arkansas School Nurses Association (ASNA)

Major Clinical, Teaching, or Practice Area:  Educator

Education:  Walden University, Master of Science in Nursing-Leadership and Management, 2007; University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 1995; Westark Community College, Associate of Applied Science-Nursing, 1990


Employment:  University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, Instructor, 2017-Present:  Clinical instruction; classroom instruction; lab instruction; advising; curriculum, teaching and learning committee; peer review; test review; textbook review; Deans search committee; Executive Director search committee.


Present NASN Offices/Appointments:  NASN Secretary/Treasurer, 2019; NASN Professional Practice Documents Advisory Committee, 2019; NASN Finance Committee, 2019; NASN Investments Advisory Committee, 2019

Present NASN Affiliate Offices/Appointments: NA

Past NASN Affiliate Offices/Appointments: ASNA Past-President, 2014-2016; ASNA President, 2010-2014

Present Offices/Appointments in Other Associations: NA

Past Offices/Appointments in Other Associations: NA

Publications Significant to School Nursing:


Presentations Significant to School Nursing:


Research Significant to School Nursing: NA

Statement of View:
Our biggest challenge as an organization over the next ten years will be addressed through our strategic plan. This plan has three active goals. First, we must **Engage** our membership in the practice of 21st Century nursing. Second, we must actively **Pursue** partnerships with other national organizations. Third, we must **Secure** data collection and participate in research for the development of innovative solutions that will result in positive student outcomes.

These may seem to be lofty goals, but they are attainable. We must find ways to engage all school nurses about how to keep children safe and healthy. We need alternative ways of providing information for all nurses. Some may be used to short, concise, sound bites that are utilized in today’s social media, whereas others may still want traditional written communication. Regardless of the delivery method, we must begin to engage all with an accurate school nurse narrative. One that is inclusive of all and leads to equitable programming for all.

The National Association of School Nurses is not the only association that seeks the best for children. Collaborating with other organizations could provide innovation, better use of available funds, and support for each other while working toward the same goals. School nurses want to see programs that promote health, education, and social equity for all of our students. We can get there through careful partnership with others that seek the same goals.

Data collection and research into the stories the data tells are vital as we move into the future. School nurse across the nation are joining in the effort to collect and utilize school health data. The appropriate use of this data and research leads to innovation and to our ultimate goal which is that **ALL children will be safe, happy and healthy!**

*This Secretary/Treasurer candidate completed the Nominating Committee process.*