



2026 NASN ELECTIONS VICE PRESIDENT



Bridget Heroff

Bridget Collins Heroff, MSN, RN, PEL-SN, NCSN

Vice President Candidate

Current NASN Affiliate: Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN)

Major Clinical, Teaching, or Practice Area: Administration/Management; Consultant; Educator; Clinical Research; School Nurse, Elementary, Secondary

Education: Lewis University, Nursing, BSN, 2007. Benedictine University, Masters of Nursing Education, MSN, 2013.

Awards, Achievements, and Honors:

National Board-Certified School Nurse, 2022
40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders, Illinois, 2019
IASN School Nursing Grant, 2017

Number of Years in School Nursing: 10 years

Employment:

- Nursing Coordinator, July 2021-Present, Barrington CUSD 220
 - Oversee health services across the unit district. Supervise and evaluation nursing and assistive staff. Oversee compliance and data reporting. Review and implement policies and procedures. Provide opportunities for continuing education. Participation in district level administration services.

Other Significant Positions Held: Lead Nurse, August 2015-June 2021, Round Lake School District 116; Adjunct Clinical Instructor, June 2014-April 2017, Chamberlain University

Present NASN Offices/Appointments: NA

Past NASN Offices/Appointments: NASN Host Conference Committee, January-June 2024

Present NASN Affiliate Offices/Appointments: NA

Past NASN Affiliate Offices/Appointments: President - Illinois, October 2022-October 2024;
President-Elect - Illinois, October 2020-October 2022

Present Offices/Appointments in Other Associations: NA

Past Offices/Appointments in Other Associations: NA

Publications Significant to School Nursing:

Barrera, G.E., Heroff, B.C., Yonkaitis, C.F. (2025). A blueprint for school nurse advocacy. *NASN School Nurse*. Advance online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1942602X251338603> (not yet published)

Participation in Publication Review:

(2023) Presentation Abstract Reviewer: *NASN Annual Conference 2024*

(2022, 2023) Award Reviewer: *Illinois State Board of Education: Those Who Excel and Teacher of the Year*.

John, T. (2019). Students with other chronic conditions. In J. Selekman, R. A. Shannon, & C.F. Yonkaitis (Eds.) *School Nursing: A comprehensive Text* (3rd ed. pp.673-720). F.A. Davis.

Lake County Health Department (2024). School Nurse Manual.

Presentations Significant to School Nursing:

- Heroff, B., (2024, June 28). Ignite presentation- school nurse advocacy. National Association of School Nurses 56th Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Hinkley, T, Burton, T., Garner, S., Heroff, B., Portle, S.,(2019, June). Leveraging partners, supporters and advocates to advance school nursing practice. National Association of School Nurses 56st Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Heroff, B., (2024, October 3). School safety panel. Illinois School Safety Conference. Niles, IL
- Heroff, B., (2024, December 5). Health Office, Part 2. Illinois Infinite Campus User Group Conference. Naperville, IL
- Heroff, B., (2022, August 5). School nurse: know your worth. 3rd Annual Comer School Nurse Day. Kovler Diabetes Center and the Sunshine Foundation. [via Zoom]

Research Significant to School Nursing: University of Washington/Illinois State Board of Education, 2025, School Nurse Capacity Study

Participation in Data Collection: NA

Statement of View:

School nurses stand at a precipice. Our necessity and skills were proven during the Covid-19 pandemic, however now with the uncertainty of the educational world, our positions are once again in peril. Every student deserves a professional school nurse providing them with care and case management throughout the school day. Unfortunately, less than half of public schools have a full-time nurse. This creates significant health equity issues for students already facing healthcare deserts and lack of resources. School nurses provide students with

acute care triage, chronic condition management, social/emotional support, resource allocation assistance, emergency response, and so much more. It is my belief that all students should have a full-time school nurse, every day. During my time on the Illinois Association of School Nurses board as Marketing/Communications Coordinator, President-Elect, and President, I advocated at the state level, providing several subject matter testimonials. I have spent the last three years working to put the School Nurse Capacity Study into action, and at long last it is happening. By collecting previously untapped data, we are hoping to create a picture of school health services in Illinois, thereby identifying areas most in need.

By participating in NASN leadership I will be able to move my advocacy to a national level as I continue to work towards school nurse mandates and funding in all states. The role of the Vice-President would allow me to work directly and supportively with the President in the pursuit of promoting and uplifting the school nursing profession. I would have the ability to participate in multiple committees and collaborate with school nurses from across the country. I would also be able to participate in recognizing outstanding professional school nurses. I believe my previous board experience provides me with a strong background to assume this role on a national scale.

**This Vice President candidate completed
the Nominating Committee process.**