

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES ELECTS LINDA MENDONCA PRESIDENT
School Nursing Organization Also Elects Beshears and Hinkson to Leadership Posts

SILVER SPRING, MD (May 9, 2019) -- Today, the National Association of School Nurses announced that Linda Mendonca, MSN, NCSN, PHNA-BC, FNASN, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the association.

In addition, Valerie Beshears, MSN, RN, NCSN, has been elected NASN secretary-treasurer and Elizabeth “BettySue” Hinkson, MSN, RN, NCSN, was elected to a term on the NASN nominating committee.

“One of NASN’s strengths has been the leadership and engagement we get from our members,” said NASN Executive Director Donna Mazyck, MS, RN, NCSN, CAE.

“It is with tremendous pride that I congratulate Linda, Valerie and BettySue on their elections, and I thank them and all the candidates who stepped up to lead this association. This is a critical time for schools and school nurses and it is only through the type of commitment and leadership that these women have demonstrated that we as an organization will rise to meet the challenges we face,” said NASN President Nina Fekaris, MS, BSN, RN, NCSN.

Mendonca, from Providence, Rhode Island, is currently an assistant professor of community and public health nursing at the Rhode Island College School of Nursing. Prior to that, she was a practicing school nurse for more than two decades as well as a statewide school nurse consultant in Rhode Island. She has been a member of NASN’s Board of Directors, as well as the NASN executive and nominating committees. Mendonca was honored with the 2016 NASN President’s Recognition Award, and has also been recognized as the Rhode Island School Nurse-Teacher of the Year.

Beshears, a resident of Greenwood, Arkansas, is an instructor at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Prior to her current position, she was a nurse in the Fort Smith Public School District for more than 15 years. Beshears is a member of the NASN Board of Directors, and has served on the organization’s Strategic Research Committee, the financial ethics and advocacy strategy committees.

Finally, Hinkson, from Lehi, Utah, was elected to a two-year term on the NASN nominating committee. Since 2016, she has served as state school nurse consultant with the Utah Department



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of Health, after more than 15 years as a school nurse in the Alpine School District. Hinkson has previously been a member of NASN's Board of Directors, as well as on the Membership, strategic governance and bylaws committees.

About NASN

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, first organized in 1968 and incorporated in 1977, representing school nurses exclusively. NASN has more than 17,000 members and 50 affiliates, including the District of Columbia and overseas school nurses. The mission of NASN is to optimize student health and learning by advancing the practice of school nursing. Please visit us on the Web at www.nasn.org.

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