



SAINA

SAN ANTONIO INDIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Presidents Message

I recently had the opportunity to learn about my DNA and was educated about my genetic makeup and culture – all through a bit of saliva! I know the phrase “this made me better understand who I am and where I come from” is used quite frequently, however, this is *literally* my experience. As I thought about my President’s Message for the 2021-22 term, I was reminded of my **WHY** and how it led me to choose nursing a decade and a half ago - with the idea of “service before self” embedded in my soul. I recently shared my origin story during the Best 25 Nurses of South-Central Texas celebration; as I think more about my story and journey, I am forced to think about what is SAINA’s DNA. What is SAINA’s *genetic makeup and culture*? My mentor, John C. Maxwell, teaches: an organization’s DNA is comprised of its **calling**, its **core beliefs** and its **culture**. These are components that live in each member of the organization and this is what makes an organization whole. SAINA’s DNA is infused with the origin story of our founding members wanting to serve and make better lives for the nurses of Asian Indian descent in San Antonio. This philosophy of “**service before self**” is the foundational framework for our DNA. This viewpoint was embedded deep into SAINA’s DNA by the founding members. As I reflect more on this, our DNA is reflected in our **calling**, our **core beliefs** and our **culture**.

SAINA’s **calling** is to *serve* the nurses of Asian Indian Descent in San Antonio, as well as all nurses that can benefit from our services. As we continue to *serve* nurses, we empower them to *serve* the most vulnerable populations of our communities. They do this by improving access to care, being sensitive to the social determinants of health and by continuing to elevate communities through their leadership.

SAINA’s **core beliefs** center on the truth and expectation that we are creating a community of excellence in nursing through professional development. Developing leaders - it is at the core of what we do. We believe that all nurses are leaders. Thus, the model, method and approach for all we do is built upon our desire to serve nurses in developing leadership deep within them. Each and every activity that SAINA conducts revolves around the exceptional professional development to master the art of leading in healthcare.

SAINA’s **culture** is articulated in what we believe our values to be. Recently, our governing board decided to adopt the acronym **CHARACTER** (courtesy of Dr. Tommye Austin, Chief Nurse Executive, University Health). C = Compassion, H = Heart, A = Assertiveness, R = Respect, A = Attitude, C = Common Sense, T = Teachable, E = Emotional Intelligence and R = Resilience. These nine letters exemplify SAINA’s values at its core. The overarching value that SAINA represents is continuous growth and learning, while forging relationships and innovations in current times.

Together, our calling, core beliefs and culture will continue to instruct, inform and inspire SAINA to nurture an environment of servant leadership, growth, mutual trust and benefit. This has proved to be beneficial in the 2019-20 term, leading us to become the fastest growing nursing organization in San Antonio and South Texas. While we come from different cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities and settings, the one thing we share, and that fuses us together, is our conviction and devotion in upholding SAINA’s DNA and Culture.

In summary, as the President of SAINA for the term 2021-22, I am committed to empowering and creating leaders for succession planning of our association. We have already started this work by creating a DREAM board (D = Dedication, R = Resilience, E = Education, A = Attitude, and M = Motivation). These are leadership characteristics that SAINA’s governing board possesses and will bestow to the next generation of leaders. I am also committed to the inclusion of all ethnicities, not just those that resembles Indian heritage. We are building an organization that is inclusive and does not discriminate. We are diverse and an equal opportunity association for nurses. In this term, SAINA will witness an unparalleled transformation in professional development. This transformation will be based on evidence-based practice in professional development, education, sharing of best practices, research, publication and dissemination of these principles nationally and internationally. The 2021-22 governing board will support me in my term as the second President of SAINA, therefore, I wish to show my gratitude and appreciation in advance. I would like to take a moment to send my sincerest admiration and to recognize those that continue to aid in the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though 2020 has been traumatizing for all of us, we are marching into 2021, strong and united to support our organization and our community. With great humility and respect, I commit to my role as President of SAINA and petition the community for its continued support.

Sincerely,
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