



SLATE OF CANDIDATES – 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Arkansas Center for Nursing, Inc. is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors elected positions. Please consider these candidates and their qualifications for service on the Board. Descriptions of the candidates are included on the following pages. All information was provided by the candidates as part of the application packet. You may view candidate CVs/Resumes using the link [2019 Board of Directors CVs/Resumes](#).

Nursing Education Representative – this position is for an Individual member of the ACN who holds a position in nursing education. The nursing education position may be in an academic or clinical setting.

Candidates:

- Donna Koestler
- Leanne Lefler

At-Large Representative – this position is for an Individual member of the ACN. Two of the three At-Large positions must be filled by a direct care provider (e.g., staff nurse, nurse practitioner, CRNA, etc.). Since this is the second At-Large position, it must be filled by a direct care provider.

Candidates:

- Randi Mackey

Voting on the candidates will occur at the Annual Meeting on October 9, 2018.

Donna Koestler, DNP, Ed.D, MSN, RN – Candidate for Nursing Education Representative



Employer	Delta State University
Position Title	Assistant Professor of Nursing
ACN Member since	2016

Qualifications for the Board position

I am qualified to serve as a Nursing Education Representative because I have 25 years of clinical experience as well as 15 years teaching nurses in the college and university setting. I have exceptional organizational skills and work well in a team setting.

BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Why are you seeking a position on the ACN Board?

I am seeking a position on the Arkansas Center for Nursing (ACN) Board because I want to positively impact the areas of teaching, scholarship and service through community engagement. The Nursing Education Representative position is a unique opportunity that will enhance my leadership knowledge-base, skills and abilities in my chosen profession. It would be an honor to serve the state of Arkansas in this capacity.

Briefly describe how you have served the ACN (or the Arkansas Action Coalition) in the past.

I have been a member of the ACN since its inception in 2016 and have enjoyed the benefits allotted me. In essence, I would like an opportunity to become more involved with organizational outcomes by becoming a full participant.

What talent, skills, and resources can you contribute as an ACN Board member?

It is my belief that I can bring a variety of leadership and hands-on skills because I have been a bedside RN since 1993, and have taught in higher education for 16 years. I also hold two doctorate degrees with one being in nursing and the other in

education. Furthermore, I am dependable, positive outcomes-oriented and work well in a team setting. It would be my pleasure to become a servant leader on the Arkansas Center for Nursing Board.

Leanne Lefler, PhD, APRN, ACNS-BC, FAHA – Candidate for Nursing Education Representative



Employer	UAMS- College of Nursing
Position Title	Associate Professor
ACN Member since	Was a founding member of the Arkansas Action Coalition in 2011

Qualifications for the Board position

I was selected in 2016 and 2017 as a *Robert W. Johnson Culture of Health Nurse Leader* and *COACH* or *Campaign Outreach Advocate for a Culture of Health*, where I received 2 years of training from the leaders of the Center to Champion Nursing (CCN) in America. I have attended many national conferences of the CCN.

I have several publications about building a Culture of Health, a concept that is included in much of my research work. I have applied for funding from the RWJF to continue this work. I have worked with the CCN and Arkansas Action Coalition group for >7 years and am knowledgeable and up-to-date about this work. I am a leader within the College of Nursing at UAMS and Associate Professor, and the College will support my work with the ACN. I believe these activities I have listed below and those not listed, yet included on my CV, demonstrate a substantial commitment for active participation in the ACN and its goals.

BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Why are you seeking a position on the ACN Board?

A position on the ACN Board aligns with my passion for building a Culture of Health in the state and nation. I am an ideal candidate for this board position and this position will facilitate continuing this work and the goals of the ACN.

Briefly describe how you have served the ACN (or the Arkansas Action Coalition) in the past.

I have been consistently involved with the Arkansas AC and not the ACN since its inception, in 2011. Initially appointed as a *Co-Chair for the Education Pillar* to represent higher education levels (PhD, DNP, Grad Schools), I have attended greater than 80% of all the Education Pillar Meetings since that time. Although the focus was changed to promoting BSN education and transitions to a BSN educated RN workforce, I have continually championed this cause. Because of the change in focus, I stepped down as co-chair and let others step up to lead. I have participated as a speaker and Co-Leader of several workshops to promote the transition to a BSN educated workforce (see CV highlighted), and have presented information about building a Culture of Health and the Future of Nursing Campaign for Action too many times to count (>15), to include keynote and plenary presentations at UA Fayetteville, ASU Jonesboro, UAMS, Southern Nursing Research Society meeting in Atlanta, UTHSC in Memphis, and at the American Heart Association Scientific Conference (and others, please see CV).

I am consistently involved in activities of the ACN and the CCN and have presented information about our ACN and CCN to multiple audiences. I was one of the voices promoting the information of the *National Learning Collaborative* or the educational initiative for integrating Culture of Health information in curricula throughout the nation.

I continue to participate actively in the conference calls from the *Center to Champion Nursing in America*. Over 2 years' time, I developed a doctoral level course on Building a Culture of Health & Population Health which was passed by UAMS Graduate Curriculum committees and the PhD/Graduate School. I am promoting this course for other health professions and am working toward receiving approval to cross list this course in other Colleges at UAMS.

Lastly, I am a co-lead on the Nurse on Boards initiative in Arkansas and have helped with one workshop, of which I was a speaker and am again developing and presenting for the second workshop in October. I also co-developed and presented in a Culture of Health educational workshop for Deans and Directors of Nursing at Arkansas Children's Hospital in 2017.

What talent, skills, and resources can you contribute as an ACN Board member?

In working with the CCN, I have received significant training about: 1) the mission and goals of the Future of Nursing report, 2) leadership and collaboration skills for building a culture of health, 3) goals of the RWJF foundation, 4) networking with RWJF/AARP and its supporters. I am recognized nationally of this work. In addition, because I am a seasoned faculty member, having multiple leadership positions, I believe I could contribute to the mission of the ACN.

Randi Mackey, BSN, RN – Candidate for At-Large Representative



Employer	UAMS
Position Title	Clinical Research RN
ACN Member since	2018

Qualifications for the Board position

I have a background in critical care (almost 2 years), central line team and PIV nurse (almost 2 years), and now I am currently employed as a clinical research RN at the Cancer Institute at UAMS. My duties involve assessment of a large patient population for different cancer research clinical trials. Direct patient care involves routine physical assessments, scheduling, treatment plan application (coordination with physician), and consent of patients. Other duties include participation in tumor board meetings, finance, planning meetings and research related to clinical trials.

BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Why are you seeking a position on the ACN Board?

I would love to be involved in promoting a strong nursing workforce in the state of AR. I am interested in education, research and mentoring, and would enjoy being part of a team.

Briefly describe how you have served the ACN (or the Arkansas Action Coalition) in the past.

I am a new member to the ACN.

What talent, skills, and resources can you contribute as an ACN Board member?

I have over 7 years of experience in non-profit, foundation work for various hospital systems in Arkansas and Texas. I've been involved in grant writing, event planning, and donor relations. I've been honored to work in unique nursing positions that allow me to have a different and unusual perspective on nursing.