



FROM THE NNA PRESIDENT

DEAR NNA MEMBERS,

As I write to you for the first time as President of the Nebraska Nurses Association, I am humbled by the responsibility and excited for the journey ahead.

Simon Sinek often talks about legacy, and he asks us to think back to a teacher who had a lasting impact. Immediately, a name comes to mind — someone who saw potential in you and invested their time and belief. Now think about all the other teachers you had that same year. Harder to recall. That one name stands out because it made an impact that lasted.

That's what I believe outstanding leadership is — and that's what I believe NNA is here to be for nursing in Nebraska. We are here to invest in one another, to lift the next generation, and to leave a legacy for our profession.

Before I share my vision, I want to pause to recognize **Dr. Linda Hardy** and **Kim Houtwed**. Their years of service and dedication have left a lasting mark on this association. Their leadership has built a strong foundation, and I am grateful for the example they've set.

Looking forward, my vision for NNA rests on three priorities:

1. **One Voice.** Strengthening our partnerships with nursing leaders and organizations across the state so that Nebraska nurses speak with unity on issues that matter most.

2. **Member Recruitment.** Meeting nurses where they are — in hospitals, schools, clinics, and communities — so every nurse feels they belong in NNA.
3. **Visibility.** Being intentional about communication, using digital and traditional platforms to tell the story of Nebraska nurses and the impact we make every day.

Most importantly, I want every nurse in Nebraska to know that this is your association. Together, we will not only grow our membership and our voice but also ensure that NNA remains a place where nurses find connection, support, and purpose.

Legacy is not something achieved in a single day — it is built through relationships, through service, and through the impact we have on others. Together, we will continue building that legacy for nursing in Nebraska.

Thank you for your commitment and for being a valued member. I am honored to serve alongside you. 🌟

With gratitude and determination,
Blake K. Smith, MSN, RN, FADLN, FAAN
President, Nebraska Nurses Association

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