



FNPAC Endorses Nurse-Friendly Candidates, Welcomes New Trustees

Monica Barfield, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, FNP-BC

The Florida Nurses Political Action Committee (FNPAC) continues its mission of advancing nursing through strategic political engagement, candidate education, and support of elected officials who champion the nursing profession and improve healthcare access for all Floridians.

Following candidate interviews held on July 11, FNPAC carefully evaluated candidates seeking state office based on their commitment to the Florida Nurses Association's legislative priorities and the nursing profession. The committee proudly endorsed seven candidates for State Senate and 19 candidates for State Representative who demonstrated strong support for policies that improve patient care, strengthen Florida's nursing workforce, and advance the nursing profession. The full list of endorsed candidates can be found at www.floridanurse.org/FNPAC.

The endorsements were guided by FNA's 2026 legislative priorities, including evacuation of surgical smoke, oversight of nursing education programs, public health and vaccines, autonomous practice for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners, workplace vi-

olence prevention, safe staffing, addressing nursing faculty shortages, and recognizing nurses as first responders.

As the new Chair of FNPAC, I am honored to lead this important work alongside a dedicated committee committed to advocacy, political engagement, and leadership development. Looking ahead, FNPAC will continue strengthening grassroots advocacy, expanding political engagement, increasing fundraising efforts, and encouraging more nurses to build relationships with elected officials, serve on boards and commissions, and even seek elected office themselves.

FNPAC also extends its sincere gratitude to its outgoing trustees for their commitment and leadership while welcoming a new Board of Trustees: Monica Barfield (Chair), Jonathan Michael Clough, Marie O. Etienne, Carmen Victoria Framil Suarez, Ryan Moran, Meghan Moroney, Robert Neff, Joanna Riggins, Donna Sabatino, Ghiselle Simon, and Deborah Tedesco. Their diverse experiences and fresh perspectives will help continue FNPAC's work to ensure nurses have a strong, respected, and influential voice in shaping Florida's healthcare future. ■

Honoring Florida's New AAN Fellows

Congratulations to the Florida nursing leaders who have recently been inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). Election as a FAAN is one of the highest and most prestigious honors in the nursing profession. The FAAN credential recognizes nurse leaders whose careers have demonstrated sustained excellence and significant contributions to improving health and health care at the local, national, and global levels. We are happy to recognize the following Florida nurses.

- Maritza Cardena Alencar, Florida International University Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- Jean W. Davis, University of Central Florida College of Nursing
- Cameron G. Duncan, Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
- Viji George, Jackson Health System
- Tamara Goncalves Rezende Macieira, University of Florida College of Nursing
- Nola A. Holness, Florida International University Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- Ragnhildur Ingibjargardottir Bjarnadottir, University of Florida

College of Nursing and Mayo Clinic

- Jacqueline B. LaManna, University of Central Florida College of Nursing
- Jessica MacIntyre, University of Miami Health System, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Valerie A. Morrison, University of North Florida School of Nursing
- Kimberly Navarro, University of Central Florida College of Nursing
- Kaitlyn Rechenberg, University of Central Florida College of Nursing

About the American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) is an independent honorific society and policy organization composed of more than 3,400 distinguished nurse leaders worldwide. The Academy advances health policy and practice through nursing leadership, innovation, and evidence-based solutions to the nation's most pressing health challenges. ■