Diversity & Inclusion Statement

Diversity and inclusion (D&I) is an essential component of our culture and organization. The foundation for D&I within NAPNAP has already been laid, however, ongoing commitment is needed from leadership to expand and optimize our efforts. Continued work through the NAPNAP D&I workgroup requires ongoing support and communication through the Executive Board. Ongoing intentional recruiting for members and leaders of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, sexual and gender backgrounds is essential when embracing all potential and current members. Diversity in leadership roles within NAPNAP promotes inclusion of the thoughts and opinions of individuals that represent our membership. Opportunities for committees, speaking and leadership posts should reflect all of our members. Celebrating our differences is what makes us stronger together!

From the Candidate

I am honored to be a NAPNAP president-elect candidate! I became a NAPNAP member when I was an NP student many years ago. While my practice settings may have changed during my career, one constant has been my professional home - the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. This organization has brought me significant professional opportunities, clinical practice collaborations and lifelong friendships! Each year, I anxiously await the NAPNAP national conference, not only to immerse myself in cutting edge education and research, but to network with colleagues and spend precious time with friends from across the country. Opportunities abound in this organization! Several years ago, I had the honor to serve on the national NAPNAP board as the professional issues chair, which is still the most rewarding professional activity that I have been involved in yet! I have served on NAPNAP’s Conference Planning and Professional Issues committees, am a department editor for the Journal of Pediatric Health Care and the co-founder of the Acute Care Special Interest Group (SIG), which has grown to be a large and productive SIG. Currently, I am the NAPNAP Foundation treasurer, which supports NAPNAP members through administering funds for education, research, clinical projects and special initiatives. Locally, I have served as the treasurer of Michigan NAPNAP. I have had the opportunity to educate many nurse practitioner students through the pediatric acute care PNP certification review course and as co-author to the sole pediatric acute care nurse practitioner review textbook. These experiences remind me of the challenges that novice NPs encounter when preparing for board exams and transitioning into practice. I have held leadership roles outside of NAPNAP in the Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (AFPNP) and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). 2020 has been named the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and I would like to work together with NAPNAP members to continue to reach higher in practicing to our full scope, to influence policy impacting child health care and nurse practitioner practice, and examine strategies to reduce NP burnout while planning for the next generation of pediatric advanced practice providers. Thank you for the outstanding care that you deliver to our nation’s children. Together we can - we are pediatric nurse practitioners!