

Michelle Rickard, DNP, CPNP-AC, CHPPN

Tennessee: Blues City Chapter

Candidate for Member-at-large



PERSONAL STATEMENT

The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) has been instrumental in my professional development as a pediatric acute care nurse practitioner. I have found numerous opportunities for growth, access to valuable resources and educational programs that have significantly enhanced my clinical practice. I have also been fortunate to have mentors who have supported and challenged me personally and professionally.

I am passionate about empowering nurse practitioners and supporting them throughout their professional journeys. As experts in pediatric care, NAPNAP members require the right tools and resources to provide safe, high-quality care for children and their families. It is essential for us to educate the community and our national leaders about patient needs while advocating for advancements in health policy and reform. With the support and resources offered by NAPNAP, we are well-equipped to undertake these important initiatives.

As a member-at-large, I will work collaboratively with the board, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders to ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed with respect. I will continue to encourage members to take active roles within the organization at every stage of their careers, offering mentorship and support as needed. This collaborative leadership approach ensures that every voice is heard and that all members feel included in the decision-making process.

While it is crucial to recognize the importance of diversity and promote inclusivity, the leadership team must also address health inequities. Everyone should feel encouraged, respected and welcomed, regardless of their background, beliefs, age, sexual orientation or any other identity. Educational offerings developed for members should be created equitably, drawing from a diverse pool of experts. When collaborating with volunteers, committee members and specialists, we must uphold these principles to ensure that educational opportunities and materials actively challenge any systemic racism or bias present in previously accepted content. This commitment to diversity and inclusivity ensures that every community member feels valued and respected.

NAPNAP INVOLVEMENT

2023-Present: Education Strategy Committee, Co-Chair
2022-Present: Education Strategy Committee, Member
2022-2024: NAPNAP Blues City Chapter, Legislative Chair
2017-2023: Continuing Education Committee
2018-2021: Acute Care SIG, Education Chair
2016-2019: NAPNAP Blues City Chapter, President

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016-Present: Assistant Professor and Pediatric Acute Care and Dual Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator, University of TN Health Science Center
2016- Present: Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

2015: DNP, University of South Alabama
2014: MSN, University of South Alabama
2010: BSN, Union University
1995: Diploma, Methodist School of Nursing