

ACNM Nominating Committee Responses



Nena R. Harris, PhD, FNP-BC, CNM, CNE

Present position: Assistant Professor, Frontier Nursing University, Hyden, KY;
FNP-BC, Shelter Health Services, Charlotte, NC

ACNM Activities:

ACNM Member

SC Affiliate Member

Midwives of Color Student Mentor

JMWH Peer Reviewer

After reading the position description, do you still agree that you are interested in running? What makes you interested in this position? What qualifies you for this position?

As ACNM moves forward in its mission to increase awareness about health disparities as well as promote diversity and inclusion in the profession, recruiting and facilitating the election of leaders who are knowledgeable and passionate about these and the other core commitments is essential. It is also important to ensure that the organization's process for electing these leaders is fair and equitable since they will be charged with representing the organization and the various interests of its membership. In my career as a clinician and educator, I have chaired and served on multiple committees with a variety of goals. I have been actively engaged in decisions that impacted organizations with a balanced eye for detail as well as the "big picture". This has allowed me to be a part of important revisions to and refinements of institutional processes.

Undertaking an elected position is a huge time commitment. Do you see any responsibilities that you might not be able to carry out?

I do not currently foresee any major conflicts that will prevent carrying out the responsibilities of the position. As an educator and clinician, my time is valuable and

often seems short. However, I do not perceive that it is different from most other busy midwives who are engaged in various aspects of the profession.

What ACNM Strategic Plan commitments best embody your personal philosophy?

ACNM's commitment to diversity and inclusion is the commitment that best embodies my personal philosophy. As an educator, I have been involved with initiatives to increase and foster diversity and students' understanding of issues surrounding diversity and inclusion in the health care system. I have been deeply moved by the steps ACNM has started to take to move from simply talking about diversity and inclusion to providing education and practical tools. While our nation's maternal health crisis is multi-faceted, it is clear that progress will require that women are served by healthcare providers who understand and can respond to their diverse and unique needs.

In changing purpose to impact, what tools or skills do you have to promote success?

I am a team player and that is probably the greatest skill I possess that promotes success. I make a concerted effort to see all sides of an issue, think of ways to bridge different ideas, and come up with solutions that are agreed upon by the group.

What ideas do you have for spreading innovation and improvement?

One idea that I have for the organization, in alignment with the commitment to diversification and inclusion, is to develop a task force that is charged with helping ACNM affiliates equip their members with resources, education, and tools for increasing diversity and inclusion in their communities. With such a large membership spread across the country, actions taken by the affiliates may be best guided by a central body that serves the role of support for the affiliates, encouraging engagement in the organization's strategic plans, and being available to consult on affiliate activities related to diversity and inclusion.