

# MEET THE 2019 ACNM ELECTION CANDIDATES

## Biographies of the Candidates

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### PRESIDENT-ELECT



Cathy Collins-Fulea,  
CNM, DNP, FACNM

Cathy Collins-Fulea has been in active clinical practice as a CNM since 1981, spending her career serving the women of inner city Detroit. Her basic nursing and midwifery education was in England. After returning to this country she opened an in-hospital birthing center in Detroit at a time when only 5 other CNMs were practicing in the state. After 10 years she joined the Henry Ford Health System where she started a new practice with 6 other CNMs. Over the years, Cathy grew this practice into one of the most respected in the state, leading 22 midwives delivering at 2 hospitals and practicing in 12 outpatient centers. The practice is known for the excellent collaborative relationships with physicians and nursing, and the respect the midwives hold in the department.

Through the years, Cathy has been active professionally on both the state and national levels with the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She has chaired many committees including Michigan Chapter of ACNM, the National Quality Management Section, the Division of Standards and Practice, the Service Directors Network and the Volunteer Structure Re-Alignment Task Force. She has served on many other committees as well as represented ACNM to other organizations including as a member of the US MERA Steering Committee, the National Quality Forum, the Joint Commission Expert Panel on Perinatal Measures, as a reviewer for ACOG's Voluntary Review of Quality of Care Program, and on the ACOG Task Force on Collaborative Practice. In addition, she has served on the ACNM BOD as a Regional Representative and most recently two terms as Vice President.

In 1998 Cathy was inducted as an ACNM Fellow. In 2003 she received the prestigious Dorthea Lang Pioneer Award from the ACNM Foundation in recognition of her work developing and implementing ACNM benchmarking and her work as editor and author of An Administrative Manual for Nurse-Midwifery Services. She has published on clinical as well as practice issues and has spoken nationally and internationally on a variety of topics.



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	<p>Mary Jane Lewitt, PhD, CNM</p>	<p>MaryJane Lewitt’s contribution to the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) began as a student, representing the ACNM as part of the Coalition of Health Professional Students, an interdisciplinary think tank of students focused on ideas to increase interdisciplinary education across the US. Her work on this became the foundation for the formation of the ACNM Student Committee, to which she served as inaugural Chair for 6 years. More recently, she chaired the Maternity System and Quality/Safety national committee of the ACNM Healthy Birth Initiative and lead the team that created “Birth Matters”, a document for hospitals and quality and safety officers who are considering implementing components of the Healthy Birth Initiative within their facility.</p> <p>She has represented ACNM at the International Normal Birth Conference, presenting on this work. Throughout her 26-year membership with ACNM, she chaired the Public Relations committee, the Membership committee, served on 50th Anniversary Task Force, participated on the local committee for the ACNM Annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, worked on the Clinical guidelines committee, the Quality and Safety Committee and the Archives Committee. She has served the Nurse-Midwives of Georgia as ACNM Affiliate Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. Throughout her time in Georgia, she represented the ACNM Georgia Affiliate on many legislative issues and became the inaugural Chair of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Georgia, a role she held for 7 years, working toward removing barriers to practice for Midwives and APRNs across the state. Mary Jane received the prestigious national ACNM Kitty Ernst Award in 2000, a young life achievement award for innovative, creative endeavors in nurse-midwifery for her contributions to the ACNM. In 2004, she received the ACNM Foundation Leadership Development Fellowship which supported her to attend the John F. Kennedy School of Government and Leadership at Harvard University and bring these skills back to her leadership roles within ACNM.</p> <p>Mary Jane has supported the future of midwifery, as the concentration coordinator for midwifery and dual majors with midwifery at Emory University, along with the Practice team chair overseeing APRN programs, including midwifery, at University of New Mexico. During her time as midwifery program director, she served on the Directors of Midwifery Education, and was elected to be the Chair. Ms. Lewitt is a Fellow in the American College of Nurse Midwives.</p>
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### TREASURER



Kathleen Bailey, CNM,  
FACNM, MA, MS

Kathleen Bailey has ardently been “with woman” since becoming a CNM in 1980. She has focused her endeavors not only on educating, guiding, and caring for mothers, babies, and their families, but also on elevating the profession of midwifery through teaching, service, and leadership. Kathleen worked for many years as a midwife in the US Navy serving women and their families around the world. In her final years of naval service, she was selected as the Navy Surgeon General’s consultant for CNMs and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioners (WHNPs). In this role, she led the Navy CNMs and WHNPs as well as gave guidance to Navy leadership on women’s health issues. Since retiring from the Navy, Kathleen has continued her clinical practice in the not-for-profit, private, and federal sectors. She has taught undergraduate and graduate nursing students at Northwestern State University of Louisiana and Old Dominion University, and currently mentors nurse practitioner, midwifery, and medical students, and OB-GYN residents while practicing full-scope midwifery at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. Kathleen has been active in ACNM and has had several leadership positions in the AMCB. Today she serves as the AMCB Treasurer and on the AMCB executive committee. Her heart remains “with woman.”



Cara J. Krulewitch CNM  
PhD FACNM

Cara Krulewitch earned her PhD in perinatal epidemiology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore (1992); and her post-masters certificate in midwifery at SUNY-Stony Brook (1997). Cara has supported midwifery and women’s health throughout her career. In recognition of her achievements and contribution to midwifery, she was inducted as a Fellow of the College in 2008 and the American Academy of Nursing in 2016. She is well qualified to serve as ACNM treasurer with experience serving as treasurer for the West Virginia Nurse’s Association District 5, and as a member of the Finance Committee, and elected treasurer for the American Midwifery Certification Board. She is a life member of ACNM and has been active in the College and midwifery issues since before becoming a midwife when she collaborated with senior midwife researchers in 1992. After becoming a midwife in 1997, she continued service to midwifery, serving in several positions with ACNM: Chapter Secretary of the Maryland Chapter, Chair of the Women’s Health Issues and Projects Committee, and founding Board Member of the Division of Women’s Health Policy and Leadership. Her roles expanded as Editorial Consultant and Member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health, a member of the Nominating Committee, and Chair of Data Information and Management Committee with the Division of Research. She just completed two terms as the President of the American Midwifery Certification Board after serving as treasurer and member of the



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		<p>certificate maintenance committee. She currently serves as a voice for military midwifery as the Director of Women’s Health, Medical Ethics and Patient Advocacy, in the Department of Defense, where she develops and oversees policy issues and serves as a senior subject matter expert for women’s health, medical ethics and patient advocacy and as an adjunct Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.</p>
	<p>Nicole Lassiter, CNM, MSN, WHNP</p>	<p>Nicole earned her BA and BSN degrees from The University of Virginia, followed later by her MSN degrees from Frontier Nursing University (FNU) and Case Western University in 2003, and her CNM and WHNP certificates from Frontier Nursing University in 2003. A nurse-midwife for 14 years, she has provided full-scope care in freestanding birth centers and high risk labor and delivery units, primarily with medicaid populations. She has worked in both Guatemala and Haiti as a volunteer midwife, and currently serves as Treasurer of the Colorado Chapter of the APNA. She has peer reviewed for the Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health (JMWH) for more than ten years, contributed to various publications on professional liability and pharmacology for women’s health. She has taught at Frontier Nursing University for 8 years and will complete her Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) at FNU in the fall of 2019.</p>
<h3>REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE</h3>		
	<p>Kathryn K. Carr, CNM, MSN, FACNM</p>	<p>Kathryn Carr has been active in Region I with the Massachusetts Affiliate, most recently as affiliate president, for many years. She serves as the current Region I Representative. On the national scale, she was chair of the ACNM Government Affairs Committee and active with the Political Action Committee as well. She is looking forward to increasing her leadership responsibilities with ACNM as they represent certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives throughout the United States.</p> <p>Kathryn has been a midwife at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center since 2009. As a member of the maternity services team, she provides prenatal care, birth and postpartum care, as well as gynecological care for women of all ages, family planning, menopause support, and education to promote patient-centered care.</p>

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	<p>Joan Combellick, CNM, MPH, PhD</p>	<p>Joan Combellick is a reproductive health specialist and experienced nurse-midwife, more recently focusing on public health research, program evaluation, and the translation of research findings into practice. She has worked domestically and internationally and has published in peer-reviewed journals on topics ranging from reproductive health (gestational diabetes, pregnancy/neonatal microbiome) to infectious disease (tuberculosis, Hepatitis C) to public health initiatives (rapid HIV screening). Joan's degree in midwifery is from Yale University (1991). She has an MPH and a PhD from New York University.</p> <p>Joan has worked as a certified nurse-midwife for the last 16 years in practice settings ranging from inner city tertiary care centers to migrant farm-worker clinics. Before completing her midwifery degree, she worked with Southeast Asian refugee populations in Thailand and Brooklyn New York.</p>
	<p>Karen Jefferson, LM, CM, FACNM</p>	<p>Karen Jefferson, LM, CM, FACNM, has co-owned a private practice in NYC for 16 years, attending births at home. She is currently a student in the inaugural class of the first Doctorate in Midwifery program at Jefferson (Philadelphia University and Thomas Jefferson University). A SUNY Downstate graduate, Karen is immediate past president of the New York State Association of Licensed Midwives, and Chair of the ACNM Committee for Advancement of Midwifery Practice. Her advocacy work helped pass 2 major midwifery bills in NY, and she is now working to support licensure for certified midwives in all 50 states. She has been an invited member to several national task forces at the American College of Nurse-Midwives.</p>
	<p>Vicki N. Marnin, CNM, MSN</p>	<p>Nicole N. Martin has been practicing as a CNM for 23 years and during that time she served many roles - Treasurer or Secretary for 2 different chapters/affiliates, midwife in home and hospital settings, member of hospital committees, founder of a midwifery practice at a community health center, owner of a private midwifery practice as well as a mother. She cares deeply about midwifery. Her vision is to see the resources of ACNM dedicated towards midwifery practices and to continue to serve as a leader in health care nationally and internationally. If elected, Vicki would bring the tenacity and communication skills that she has developed over her career to solve problems identified by ACNM members and the Board. Her focus has primarily been local, but she would like the opportunity to serve the midwifery community on a larger scale. She is eager to develop a deeper understanding of the issues, communicate with Region 1 affiliates and work hard to develop the full potential of the ACNM.</p>

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### REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE



Elois Edge, CNM, DNP,  
MSN, CLC

Elois Edge was certified and has practiced as a nurse-midwife since 1998. Her career in maternal child health began in 1978 as a Registered Nurse at a birth center in Albany, Southwest Georgia. She served as the nurse manager for the last 8 years of this 20-year tenure. Her journey took her to Frontier Nursing University where she obtained her midwifery certificate and has practiced for another 20 years in midwifery. She ventured on to complete the Master of Science in Nursing in 2008 from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Albany's underserved rural environment inspired her service for low income high-risk mostly African American/Hispanic population. This region has one of the highest infant mortality / maternal mortality challenges in the nation. Thus, Elois has served in numerous capacities to improve marked disparities such as Improving Birth Outcomes Coalition of Southwest Georgia, Southwest Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition, and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force. Through ACNM/PAC Elois had the opportunity to march to the Capitol and speak to Representative Sanford Bishop of Georgia about some of these issues. Elois recently obtained the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the Frontier Nursing University in 2016 with a DNP project entitled "A Multi-strategy Plan to Improve Breastfeeding Initiation and Duration in a Vulnerable Population." Elois was named to complete Jennifer Foster Region III Representative's tenure in May, 2018 and has served on the board since that time. A fellow board member, Kathryn Carr, stated "Elois has risen from a position of leadership and excellence in many other domains and is now a prominent midwife leader on ACNM's national stage as the first midwife of color in the history of ACNM to represent a region on ACNM's Board of Directors. Elois possesses a wealth of leadership experience in community service and birth justice including, but not limited to, over 2 decades of childbirth and breastfeeding activism. Elois brings an invaluable voice of pragmatic insight to the board and is a joy to work with." On a personal note, Elois has been married to Dr. Bill Edge, Sr. for over 40 years, has 3 sons, and 4 grands. Her motto is that "Love and Laughter Heals all."



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	<p>Linda McDaniel, CNM, DNP</p>	<p>Linda McDaniel is a certified nurse-midwife practicing in West Georgia and Course Faculty at Frontier Nursing University. She earned her DNP and MSN degrees from Frontier Nursing University. She is currently practicing in a large midwife-physician practice. She has worked as a solo midwife in a small practice in West Georgia and with women in rural and city environments from different walks of life. Linda's exposure to diverse clinical practices has allowed her to develop a comprehensive view of midwifery care. She is enthusiastically running for the ACNM Region 3 Representative position to support current members and increase new membership within the organization. Linda has extensive experience working with groups to developing protocols, implementing initiatives, organizing events, and advocating for change. She is a volunteer for Shared Hope International, a nonprofit focused on human trafficking She is currently conducting research on this topic and the impact it has on her community, and she works to inform communities about this growing problem. Linda has also worked with multiple stakeholders at the university in researching, developing, and executing a tobacco-free campus initiative. As Co-Chair, Chair, and in many other leadership roles, she understands the complexities in developing and implementing initiatives that require identifying pivotal individuals along with passionate supporters to make change.</p>
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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

	<p>Rebecca Fay, DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC</p>	<p>Rebecca Fay received her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2013 at Frontier Nursing University. She joined Frontier Nursing University as part-time course faculty in May 2015. Rebecca earned her Certificate in Midwifery from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing and a Post-Master's WHCNP Certificate from Frontier Nursing University. She has devoted her professional career working with women in various roles ranging from a Labor and Delivery RN, to a Certified Nurse-Midwife and Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner. She has delivered approximately 1500 babies. Rebecca's focus is now preparing the next generation of CNMs and NPs. She lives in Southwest Missouri with her husband of 46 years. Rebecca was instrumental in developing the operation of the Arkansas Affiliate of ACNM. She is the immediate past president of the Arkansas Affiliate. Rebecca served on the ACNM Government Affairs Committee (GAC), and currently serves on the Membership and Marketing Committee and the Affiliate Development &amp; Support Committee. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting and kayaking.</p>
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	<p>Lisa Hanson, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN</p>	<p>Lisa Hanson is the Professor and Director of the Marquette University College of Nursing Midwifery Program. She practiced full-scope midwifery for 29 years at the Aurora Midwifery and Wellness Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Lisa served as the chair of the Division of Research (DOR) for 2 terms and as DOR Section Chair for 2 terms. She currently serves on the Nominating Committee for the FACNM and as Vice President of the Wisconsin ACNM Affiliate. She is an active researcher with NIH funding for a double-blind randomized placebo-controlled trial to determine the efficacy of an oral probiotic intervention to reduce Group B <i>Streptococcus</i> antenatal colonization. She believes that promotion of midwifery research is an essential component of our organization. Midwifery research informs education, practice and policy including efforts to achieve full practice authority. Lisa has a strong personal and professional commitment to diversity and inclusion. Enhanced diversity and inclusion at ACNM will strengthen the organization and attendance and experience at the annual meetings. ACNM needs leaders who value and promote measures to enhance diversity and inclusion. Lisa believes strongly in the ACNM and believes she has communication and organizational skills that will serve the work of the nominating committee</p>
	<p>Nena R. Harris, PhD, FNP-BC, CNM, CNE</p>	<p>Nena Harris is an Assistant Professor at Frontier Nursing University, where she has taught since 2006. She is currently the course coordinator for the Women's Health and Childbearing course for FNP students. She has also served as a chairperson for students completing their DNP capstone projects and currently serves as chair of the FNU Institutional Review Board. Nena earned her PhD, MSN (FNP), and BSN degrees from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing. She completed her nurse-midwifery training at Frontier Nursing University in 2006. She also has a BA in Anthropology from Davidson College, with concentrations in cultural and gender studies. Her nursing practice has been in inpatient and outpatient maternity/child health, infectious disease, and general medical/surgical areas. Her doctoral program focused on HIV prevention and management in women related to issues such as trauma and violence, social support, sexual abuse, incarceration, and substance abuse, with an emphasis on health disparities and qualitative methods. Her dissertation focused specifically on incarcerated women's experiences with physical and sexual abuse and HIV risk factors. She currently maintains her clinical practice as an FNP at a free clinic for homeless women and children. Nena has been a member of ACNM since midwifery school and was awarded the ACNM Varney Participant Award in 2004. She has served as a peer reviewer for the <i>Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health</i> since 2013 and was recently appointed as Consulting Editor for Health Disparities for the journal. She is also a mentor for a student nurse-midwife as a part of the Midwives of Color mentoring program.</p>



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	Sarah Smith, CNM, DNP, APRN	<p>Sarah Smith graduated from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in Hyden, KY, in 1997. She recently completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice; the focus of her Doctoral Work was Pregnancy Care for Women after Bariatric Surgery. She is currently on the Academic Faculty at the Frontier Nursing University. Ms. Smith spent 8 years as Perinatal Education Coordinator at Erlanger Hospital. She was Assistant Professor of Nursing at Chattanooga State Community College and Clinical Faculty at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She is dedicated to improving health care for all women and is actively involved in contributing and promoting education to nurses wishing to begin a career in Nurse Midwifery. Sarah has five grown children, two sons and three daughters. She enjoys cooking, reading, and being with her family.</p>
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