

Ballot Question 1: What makes you qualified for this position? Why are you interested in this position?

I am interested in serving on the Nominating Committee because I believe in the critical importance of the ACNM in advancing midwifery in the United States and want to work to promote and advance the goals of midwifery at the national level. During my time as faculty at UNM I have served on several committees in the College of Nursing as well as an at-large member of the UNM Health Sciences Center Council. Having served on the College of Nursing Nominating Committee as well as the Faculty Development and Leadership Committee, I have first-hand experience carrying out the general responsibilities of the nominating committee and the election process responsibilities of the Nominating Committee. Additionally, my other experience with faculty governance and serving on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico PSI chapter have provided me an opportunity to see the impact that engaged individuals can have on decision making processes. If elected, I will work with the Nominating Committee to meet the charge of the Committee.

Ballot Question 2: Visit ACNM's Strategic Plan [HERE](#). What part of the strategic plan embodies your personal philosophy?

Goal 4: National Advancement of Midwifery embodies my personal philosophy. Through this goal, ACNM seeks to positively impact the midwifery practice environment through education, practice and research. Since the early days of my career in maternal-child health I have appreciated the importance of promoting physiological birth within the climate of healthcare in the United States. My lifetime journey of "leading is learning" began when I had the honor to witness my first birth. This propelled me to complete a BSN and become a labor and delivery nurse, subsequently, evolving as a role model, preceptor, charge nurse, educator, mentor, and leader. Becoming a certified nurse midwife (CNM) allowed me to promote normal physiologic birth, which is associated with reduced maternal and neonatal morbidity and increased birth satisfaction through shared decision making and reduced costs. Over my career, I practiced in both hospital and private practices. As the only CNM in a Colorado community hospital, I pioneered the midwifery model of care and established policies fostering physiologic birth. Motivated to advance the health of women and children through research and policy, I completed my doctoral degree. As a midwife and nurse-scientist and member of an interdisciplinary research team, I am committed to continued growth, improving maternal-child health outcomes, and inspiring and encouraging the next generation of nurse-midwife leaders.

Ballot Question 3: Visit the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) [HERE](#). What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging?

I strongly believe diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are critical to strategically address the social, political, and structural determinants obstructing improvement in maternal child health outcomes. As a white nurse-midwife, I acknowledge that I have considerable privilege within the healthcare and academic setting. I believe these privileges must be actively addressed by myself and leaders within the organization. Furthermore, I believe ACNM should prioritize participatory approaches in efforts moving forward. Such approaches would prioritize the voices of stakeholders/communities in addressing systematic and structural barriers within the ACNM and within midwifery practice. Furthermore, I believe the ACNM should work to promote universal screening of all women for social determinants of health and tailored programs/interventions to mitigate these disparities promoting health equity and improving health outcomes.

Ballot Question 4: What is your vision for innovation and improvement within ACNM?

Moving forward, I would like to see inclusion of the voices of all stakeholders in decision making processes. These stakeholders include not only the midwives who are members of ACNM, but

also the voices of the women, families, and communities we serve. Through such inclusive efforts, ACNM will best be positioned to address the critical health disparities of birthing people and their families.

Ballot Question 5: What are two improvements that ACNM should prioritize and how would you help address them in your role?

Two improvements I would like to see ACNM prioritize are: 1) stakeholder engagement processes and 2) greater research activity, including Community Based Participatory Research to advance the midwifery profession. Although these activities are noted in the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, I believe greater effort in these areas will help to move ACNM forward. Given the longstanding inequities in maternal and infant health, which have been further exacerbated by COVID-19, the voices of those most affected should be heard. Through such collaborative efforts, barriers within the health care system that obstruct access to care and improved health outcomes can best be addressed. My role on the nominating committee would be to advocate for active engagement of all members including as members of the ACNM board. Second, as the national voice of midwifery in the United States, greater research activity would bolster evidence to advocate for midwifery care for all as well as inform efforts to eliminate maternal and child health disparities.