

Ballot Questionnaire: Jessica Brumley, Vice Presidential Candidate

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

I believe that ACNM is at a crossroads. We have a new generation of midwives that is driven by activism to address issues related to equity and justice for marginalized populations. Their voices are pushing our organization and therefore our membership to consider our role in issues beyond birth and clinical practice. At a time where more is being asked of ACNM and its membership, it is critical that we have leaders able to midwife us through transition. I recently learned that I fall into a 5-year mini generation between Generation X and Millennials, known as Xennials. We are a bridging generation that had an analogue childhood and a digital adulthood. We possess the cynicism of Generation X but the optimism and drive of the Millennials. Our organization needs leaders capable of bridging to help move us forward. My leadership style has been described as “characterized by respect, close listening, open-mindedness, and a genuine interest in equity and real representation of our members and the communities we serve”. The role of Vice President is that of a bridge between the Board and the divisions, committees, volunteer leadership council and the office staff. This role would be served well by someone with these qualities.

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

The 5 Core Commitments of Diversity and Inclusion, Leadership Development, Research, Interprofessionalism and Communication embody my personal approach to both my clinical practice and service to the profession. As a service director at an academic medical center, I have been able to grow a diverse team of midwives. Not only have I sought opportunities to develop my own leadership skills but have also worked to support my team in their skill development. After receiving the Thatcher fellowship, I supported the application of one of our midwives who also received the fellowship. After being awarded the Sigma Theta Tau MCH Leadership Fellowship, I served as a mentor to a Fellow in the subsequent cohort. Not only have I been able to conduct research regarding group prenatal care, gestational weight gain and breastfeeding outcomes, but I have lead department wide implementation of evidence based practices such as immediate skin to skin, delayed cord clamping, and intermittent auscultation of low risk laboring women. As the director of a midwifery service that utilizes an integrated team based model, I have worked to foster an environment where all parties are respected as integral team members with unique expertise. We model this for interprofessional learners such as midwifery, nursing, medical and physician assistant students as well as residents. None of this would be possible without continual and effective communication that comes in all manners from the personal, electronic and written.

Ballot Question 3: What ideas do you have for enhancing diversity and inclusion?

ACNM has a small yet mighty group of diverse midwives in the Midwives of Color Committee and the Friends of MOCC. Strengthening this group with the inclusion of additional support and resources is needed. This group has already implemented a robust mentoring program for student midwives. They should be given the opportunity to lead the changes needed with the support of the organization and the profession. In addition to organizational support for the implementation of the recommendations from the Racism and Racial Bias Position Statement, ACNM needs to be transparent regarding our own unique history and how that has contributed to the near elimination of Midwives of Color. The Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Project lists several solidarity principles including conducting a power analysis to consider how BIPOC communities are differently situated in racial hierarchy and differently affect by issues. We may also work to unlearn dominant narratives and affirm the unique history of communities and midwives of color.

Ballot Question 4: What innovation or improvement would you bring to ACNM?

The biggest improvement I would bring is my unique self. My life experiences have led me to this point and have given me the opportunity to develop leadership skills such as open minded, active listening as well as the time management and communication skills needed to lead diverse teams. As a service director I have been able to develop my voice to advocate for midwives and the individuals we serve without making others feel threatened. Much of the work of leadership is about finding balance. If elected, I would bring this quality to the role of Vice President.