

Ballot Questionnaire: Colleen Donovan- Baston, Nominating Committee Candidate

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

I believe it is important for the person elected to this position is to be committed to the inclusion of those not in the majority when making recommendations for candidates. We need to seek out the voices of those who are not being heard. While searching for candidates, the nominating committee member must consider leadership ability, flexibility and willingness to serve, diversity and board balance, as well as evolving organizational needs when making recommendations for candidates. As a CNM who has practiced in settings from large midwifery practices in county hospitals to FQHC clinics to rural homes, I believe there are midwives like me who feel unheard. It is important to expand our leadership, in order to widen our representation. Maintaining a balance in board composition mix is also key, recognizing the benefits new members and their fresh insights bring, as well as the institutional knowledge that seasoned members retain.

Ballot Question 2: What part of the strategic plan embodies your personal philosophy?

Working to increase unity within the midwifery profession has been the foundation of my midwifery career. To that end, I see increasing diversity and inclusion, as well as improving interprofessional relationships, as the strategic directions most important to me. My time spent with US MERA made it clear that much work needs to be done in both of these areas. Most crucially, we need to increase the diversity of the midwifery workforce to more closely match the birthing families we serve.

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

I believe having a culturally and geographically diverse group of nominating committee members is one of the most important ways to increase the diversity of the candidate pool. Having connections around the country allows nomination committee members to reach out to their networks and expands the opportunity to find those exceptional candidates. The nominating committee itself needs to include a gender, racial, and cultural diversity mix, as well as including members from different practice locations and settings.

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

I would come to the table with a commitment to participate in regular and continuing anti-racism and anti-oppression training, and a pledge to participate with transparency and open communication.