

# ACNM Election 2020

## Vice President Region IV Representative Region VI Representative Region VII Representative Nominating Committee Representative Bylaws



### ACNM Bylaws Revision 2020 and ACNM Election 2020

Dear ACNM member:

Inside this booklet you will discover important information about the 2020 ACNM Bylaws Revision, the 2020 ACNM Election Candidates and your official ACNM voting ballot. Post-mailed ballots must be **postmarked by April 4, 2020** for it to be counted. Please complete and place your ballot in the mail today or vote online (see your personalized ballot for details). If you are unable to access or believe your ballot is missing, contact Crystal Adams at the ACNM national office via email, [cadams@acnm.org](mailto:cadams@acnm.org), or phone, 240-485-1821.

Take this opportunity to review the proposed bylaws revisions and to consider each candidate. The ACNM Nominating Committee extends its sincere thanks to all of the midwives who have agreed to serve our organization. The proposed 2020 Bylaws revision can be found at <https://www.midwife.org/Bylaws>. Additional information about each candidate is available online at <https://www.midwife.org/acnm-election-candidates>.

**VOTE TODAY!** Exercise your right to vote and let your choices be known. Every vote matters!

Sincerely,  
Your ACNM Bylaws Committee & Nominating Committee

ACNM Bylaws Committee  
Melicia Escobar, CNM, WHNP-BC, MSN, Chair

Committee Members  
Janice Bovee, CNM, MSN  
Candace Curlee, CNM, FACNM, MS  
Christopher Demezier, RN (Student Member)  
Lynne Himmelreich, CNM, FACNM, MPH  
Linda Nanni, CNM, FACNM, MSN  
Keely Conlon Robinson, RN (Student Member)  
Nichole Wardlaw, CNM

ACNM Nominating Committee  
Venay M Uecke, CNM, Chair

Committee Members  
Nena Harris, CNM, BC, FNP, Co-Chair  
Celina del Carmen Cunanan, CNM, FACNM, MSN  
Terri Clark, CNM, FACNM  
Charlotte Morris, CNM, FACNM, MS, MSN, DNP  
Lisa Hanson, CNM, FACNM, RN, Ph.D, FAAN

### Voting Instructions

Offices up for election in 2020 include Vice President, Region IV Representative, Region VI Representative, Region VII Representative and the yearly candidates for the Nominating Committee. Voting opens March 3-April 4, 2020. Members who have an email address on file at ACNM will receive an email with a link to the secure electronic ballot. Members who do not have an email on file at ACNM will receive online voting instructions via mail.

## **Bylaws 2020 Revision Proposal Voting For SBS System**

Nonprofit bylaws define the structure and function of all areas of the organization. Most nonprofit organizations review their bylaws approximately every 5 years to ensure that their bylaws meet the current needs of the organization, reflect current state and federal laws, and align with best practices in nonprofit governance.

The ACNM Bylaws Committee recently completed a comprehensive review of ACNM's current bylaws. This review process included soliciting input from all areas of the organization, consulting with ACNM's legal counsel, and hosting a comment period for all members in August of 2019. The Bylaws Committee is pleased to propose the final draft of the ACNM Bylaws 2020 Revision proposal to the membership for approval. We ask that you cast **EIGHT (8) SEPARATE** votes:

### **Bylaws Vote #1**

#### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

Bylaws Vote #1 is a vote for approval of the **general revision** in its entirety, with the exception of SEVEN (7) additional provisions which will be voted on separately in Bylaws Votes #2-8 (explanations below). Most of the revisions throughout the ACNM Bylaws 2020 Revision proposal are editorial or clarifying changes to the current bylaws. In addition, the following more substantive revisions are proposed:

- Removal of the mission which is best captured in operational documents such as the Governance Manual;
- The Annual Business Meeting revised to Membership Business Meeting for consistency throughout the bylaws;
- The duration of annual membership was made explicit;
- Verbiage such as "membership card" and "invoices" stricken as both are available electronically online;
- Notice of the Membership Business Meeting and meeting agenda was revised to 21 days to reflect quicker, easier, electronic methods of communication currently utilized;
- That any ACNM member is eligible to attend the Membership Business Meeting was made explicit;
- Language pertaining to affiliate incorporation, responsibility, authority, policies/positions, processes, and membership were clarified;
- The title of Executive Director was revised to Chief Executive Officer to be consistent with the current structure within National Office;
- Language pertaining to and reflecting the current volunteer structure was implemented;
- Language to authorize the Board to fulfill vacancies was added to ensure a full Board;
- Language to reflect board composition was clarified;
- Language to clarify and make explicit processes around meeting of the Board, including the minimum number of Board meetings, who may attend meetings, notice of meetings, and documentation of meeting minutes, was added;
- The role, terms, election, appointment, and resignation processes with regard to the Executive Committee of the Board were clarified;
- The independent status and functioning of the Nominating Committee was clarified and made explicit and membership revised to be consistent with Nominating Committee SROPs;
- With regard to FACNM clarifications were made with regard to dues as separate from the general ACNM budget;
- Language around names, trademarks, intellectual property, etc were clarified to protect their use as well as a potential revenue source; and
- Specific timelines and clarifying language with regard to the budget and audit were specified.

## **Bylaws Vote #2**

### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to allow those in the Student Members membership classification the right to be voting members of ACNM (Article III, section B3).** The Student Member of the Board put forward this proposal as the membership includes a large percentage of students (1/3) the active/life members which they felt justified a change to voting status to “help to address issues of diversity and inclusion, narrow the student knowledge deficit about the ACNM, provide clinical support for students, and offer professional support to new graduates – the main focuses for [the 2019] student report.”

## **Bylaws Vote #3**

### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to remove limitations on increasing the annual membership dues (Article III, section D1).** On the recommendation of legal counsel, this section was reworded to make clear the distinction between National ACNM and ACNM Affiliate dues. Furthermore, on the recommendation of legal counsel and with support of the Board, this amendment was included as a means to avoid locking ACNM into a “no growth” status. The ability to increase dues only to keep up with inflation is effectively a stand-still budget, which only avoids losing buying power, without the ability for any real dollar increase to increase ACNM programs, staff, efforts, etc., except by a member vote which is not ideal for governance.

## **Bylaws Vote #4**

### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to include a new *ELECTED VOTING* member of the Board: the At-large midwife of color (self-identified); to have a term length of 3 years consistent with other elected voting members of the Board (Article IV, section C).** The Board Composition Task Force felt that an elected at-large midwife of color (who would self-identify) could represent midwives of color among the general membership recognizing the need for “more valuable input, wisdom, and voices from people whose communities are most deeply affected by the maternity crisis, at every level of leadership, and in particular, at the highest level of leadership as found on the ACNM Board of Directors.”

## **Bylaws Vote #5**

### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to include a new *APPOINTED VOTING* member of the Board: the Midwives of Color Committee (MOCC) Chair or designee; to have a term length of 1 year with the option for re-appointment up to a maximum of 6 years total (Article IV, section C).** The Board Composition Task Force recommended that the MOCC Chair or their designee, currently an ex-officio *non-voting* member should have a vote as a permanent member of the board. The current MOCC Chair and the Student Member of the Board also endorse this amendment as a valuable way to integrate leadership into the board. The term length has been clarified to include the 3-year term of the MOCC Chair for up to 2 terms as specified in the Division SROPs.

## **Bylaws Vote #6**

### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to include a new *APPOINTED VOTING* member of the Board: the Student Member; to have a term length of 1 year (Article IV, section C).** This section also captures the elevation of the existing student member to voting status and is supported by the Board Composition Task Force and Student Member of the Board given that the large percentage of the membership that is comprised of student members.

### **Bylaws Vote #7**

#### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to include a new *APPOINTED VOTING* member of the Board: the At-large member of the public; to have a term length of 1 year with the option for re-appointment up to a maximum of 6 years total (Article IV, section C).** The Board Composition Task Force recommended the addition of an at-large member of the public who could bring specific needed attributes or skill set determined by the board (e.g. underrepresented group, finance, fundraising, law, marketing).

### **Bylaws Vote #8**

#### **Vote Response Required: Approve/Disapprove**

**We are asking members to cast a vote on a proposal to require that the Nominating Committee present TWO qualified nominees for each elected Board position to the membership (Article XIII (now Article XII in the revision), section A, 1a).** Previously there was no specification allowing for multiple candidates for any given field. Given the findings that emerged prior to the 2019 amendment to the bylaws that revealed low voting participation during elections, Bylaws felt that presenting more than 2 candidates does not yield a clear mandate among the voting majority.

## Candidates for Vice President



**Jessica Brumley, CNM, PhD, FACNM**

**Location: Tampa, Florida**

Jessica Brumley earned her midwifery degree (MA) from New York University in 2001 and her PhD in Nursing from the University of South Florida (2012). She has spent the past 15 years with the University of South Florida, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and currently serves as Director of the Division of Midwifery. Under her leadership, the practice has doubled in size and expanded coverage to include a full scope midwifery service with 11 Midwives attending over 1,000 births per year. This practice is known as a model for team-based care in which all members are valued for their unique expertise. She has served ACNM in multiple local, state and national roles. As local chapter chair, she served as a founding member of the Florida Affiliate executive board and currently serves as President. She has focused on growing the volunteer leadership and improving the value of membership. She represents the Florida Affiliate on the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Steering Committee, the ACOG District XII Advisory Council and serves as the Florida Representative to the ACNM AIM State Leaders Workgroup. At the national level, she has served as Secretary of the Midwives of Color Committee and Chair of the Basic Education Section of the Division of Education. She served on the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce and was the ACNM Representative to the AIM Workgroup that created the Peripartum Racial/Ethnic Disparities Patient Safety Bundle. She has been honored to have been a Sigma Theta Tau Maternal Child Health Leadership Fellow (2010-2011), ACNM Foundation Thatcher Fellow (2012) and has been inducted as a Fellow of the ACNM (2018).



**Michelle Drew, CNM, DNP, MPH, FNP-C, CEFM**

**Location: Wilmington, Delaware**

I believe that serving in elected office of the organization that represents our profession, my vocation should be the duty and right of not just an elitist select few, but of every single member and that The Leadership should look like the people that profession serves. I'm the 7th great-granddaughter of Sarah described by her enslaver as "bit high-minded but a surpassing midwife". I am the great-granddaughter of Stella Smith Marsh, who was among the last Black midwives that caught every Black baby in Bland County and most poor white babies for more than 300 years until 1965. I'm the proud apprentice of the late Ellie Muyumbwa, the Bantu midwives who mentored me into the nurse, midwife, mentor to future midwives I am as a missionary and junior midwife in Zambia. I'm the founder of a Black woman led community based organization fight to save Black mamas and babies I've proudly served as a member of the Mentoring and Archiving subcommittees of the Midwives of Color Committee, pairing mentor-mentee dyads that we will manifest relationships

that tie two generations of nurse-midwives of color together not only through the profession of midwifery, but common ties of culture and community I tell and preserve the history of Black midwives in America I was honored to serve as a reviewer of scholarship applications for the ACNM Foundation. I graduated from one of the most consistently respected and ranked nurse-midwifery programs in the United States, Vanderbilt School of Nursing with a near perfect GPA of 3.997 while working full-time as a nurse and parenting. I've presented and moderated at ACNM annual meeting in workshops, sessions and plenary sessions. I've served underrepresented, disenfranchised women with respect and honor for 20 years. I AM The American College of Nurse Midwives. And I'm my ancestor's wildest dreams.



**Sascha James-Contarelli, CNM, DNP, FACNM**

**Location: New Haven, CT**

I received my bachelor's in nursing from Howard University and my masters in midwifery and doctorate from New York University.

My professional journey has been unique and broad reaching with practice settings in both the public and private sector. In 2005, I became more active in political advocacy and policy to ensure that midwives are recognized as invaluable stakeholders in perinatal care. These experiences cemented my belief in the importance of education which led to my transition to full-time professor in 2014. After serving as the director of a graduate nursing program, I decided to focus more on my passion for midwifery education.

I recently joined the nursing and midwifery faculty at Yale School of Nursing. I am privileged to serve as the president of ACNM's New York State affiliate. I am also honored to continue to have opportunities to provide my knowledge and expertise to many national efforts such as member of the CDC Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA), the Regional Governor for fellows of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, treasurer of MOCC and Foundation board member. Locally, I serve as co-chair on Governor Cuomo's Maternal Mortality and Racial Disparities Task Force, member of New York State's Maternal Mortality Steering Committee, NYS Maternal Mortality Review Board, liaison to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) District II and NYS March of Dimes Maternal/Child Health Advisory Committee. I am also a member of the expert task force in charge of the development of perinatal regionalization for New York State.

As a proud West-Indian, I recognize the importance of global outreach and have dedicated efforts towards assisting midwives and the perinatal community in my home of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.



## Candidates for Region IV Representative



**Kathleen Lavery, CNM, MS**

**Location: Jackson, MI**

I have been active in the politics and policy of Nurse- Midwifery since 1991, in local, state and national roles. I believe that if we don't do the work, no one else will either; it is our professional duty to volunteer, to give of our time and resources to improve the profession. I have served as Michigan Affiliate treasurer, legislative liaison, vice president and more. I have served on our state board of nursing and bring my regulatory experience to all my roles. I have served at the national level as the CNM representative to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and also at ACNM on task forces and the State Government Affairs committee. Clinically, I have worked for both large and small midwifery practices, and I have owned, managed and been a provider for an independent midwifery practice. I currently work for a hospital birth practice and I have a private gyn/primary care practice. I speak state wide on legislative and policy issues, and to midwifery and nursing programs. In my current roles, I frequently communicate with members from our region regarding their state issues, progress and frustrations; being Region 4 representative is the next natural step. I have 2 grown children, and a husband, plus a wonderful dog named Butterscotch who is our office helper and unofficial therapy dog. I love to travel and have done some clinical work in Uganda in addition to my personal travels. I would love to add some regional stops to see your fair cities and meet with you about your needs.



**Daniel Stec, CNM, DNP, FNP-BC**

**Location: Indianapolis, IN**

Daniel's involvement with ACNM began years before taking boards. During this first year in the dual FNP/CNM program at Emory University, Daniel served as the Georgia affiliate's first student intern. During this period, he worked closely with the board, attended all the affiliate and leadership meetings, and worked with a mentor on a midwifery awareness project for undergraduate nursing students – a presentation that he is still giving today. After graduating in 2016, Daniel moved back to his home state of Indiana where he now works at HealthNet in Indianapolis. Within his first few months into his position, he began serving the Indiana affiliate as the Vice President, where he is now in his second term. Throughout his two terms as VP, Daniel helped plan and lead many of the affiliate meetings, organized their first annual retreat (now in its third year), began a student intern program, and frequently represents ACNM at the Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana (CAPNI) meetings and events. Having attended all of the last five national meetings, Daniel has learned from many other affiliate members and midwives around the country about some of the challenges they face on the local as well as state and national level. He is excited at the opportunity to represent Region IV, connect with other affiliate leaders, and serve the midwives throughout the region at the local, state, and national level.

## Candidates for Region VI Representative



**Jessica Anderson, CNM, DNP, WHNP, FACNM**

**Location: Aurora, CO**

Jessica Anderson, DNP, CNM, WHNP, FACNM is seeking re-election to the ACNM Board of Directors, Region VI Representative position. She currently holds a faculty appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado College of Nursing where she is Director of Midwifery Services which encompasses 30 midwives and 3 midwifery practices in the Colorado front range.

Jessica has a variety of experience, interests, and passion that are valuable to an ACNM board position. She was intimately involved in the development of the Colorado affiliate and believes in the work that can be accomplished at the state and regional level. She has held multiple positions at the state affiliate and chapter level and has been involved on multiple state committees including Colorado Perinatal Care Collaborative (Vice-President), March of Dimes, Colorado Health Department Maternal Mortality Committee and Colorado Hospital Association. In addition, Jessica has served on multiple ACNM committees including the Program Committee and Business Committee to name a few. As a board member, Jessica has fulfilled her role as board liaison to multiple volunteer committees, created routine regional affiliate leadership meetings, supported regional education web events, and supported affiliates with strengthening their organizations. Most recently, Jessica is working with ACNM members to develop and launch the ACNM Bullying Taskforce.

Jessica has presented at local and national conferences including the ACNM Annual Meeting & Exposition, ACNM Midwifery Works, Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nursing Colorado State Conference and American Academy of Family Practice Family Centered Maternity Care Conference on an array of topics including nitrous oxide, water birth, skin to skin, breastfeeding, midwifery business, and perineal suturing. Her professional interests include exercise in pregnancy, water birth, nitrous oxide for labor, women's health care policy, practice development, quality improvement, maternal mortality and immunizations. Jessica is also a nursing textbook contributor and recently co-authored the ACNM Nitrous Oxide Manual.

Jessica believes in our profession, our outcomes, and the ACNM mission, vision, and values! She has volunteered within ACNM at all levels, advocated for midwifery at all tables, represented midwifery within multiple organizations, and brings extensive business experience to the board. Jessica would be honored to be re-elected to the ACNM Region VI Board Representative position!

## Candidates for Region VII Representative



**Heide Cruikshank, CNM, WHNP, RNC-OB**

**Location: San Francisco, CA**

I am a certified nurse midwife working in San Francisco, CA at UCSF in the Center for Reproductive Health. I primarily see patients who want to build families, but also patients who want to preserve their fertility before undergoing hormonal therapy as part of their gender transition or who require a higher level of care about fertility due to future plans, cancer or PCOS. Before coming to UCSF, I worked in a full scope independent midwife practice in Minnesota at Minnesota Birth Center. I was a student nurse midwife in Oregon. I lived, worked and was a student midwife in Washington. As a nurse in Seattle, I cared for patients who had been airlifted from Alaska. For years prior to that I worked as a nurse in Texas. I have affection for all the areas in Region VII and the only one I haven't visited yet is Alaska - emphasis on YET. I have had the good fortune to work all over the country and I love learning from midwives who practice in different settings. I am an eager communicator and love responsibility so, as representative, I look forward to reporting national issues to my region and vice versa. I have had the title of midwife while working in hospitals, outpatient clinics and birth centers and, even without the designation of ACNM regional rep, I consider myself a one-woman-outreach-service in most situations since I can speak to the breadth of the scope of practice that midwives can rock. I am outgoing and take pride in being approachable and empathetic so it would be my privilege to facilitate communication between different groups of midwives and organize opportunities for midwives to meet in person as a regional representative.



**Theresa M. Kouadio, CNM, MSN**

**Location: Kotzebue AK**

As we end 2019 and move into 2020, I prepare to celebrate my 25th anniversary as a nurse-midwife. Currently I serve as the Alaska State Affiliate president, and secretary of the APRN Alliance. For the past three years I have had the privilege of living and working inside the Arctic Circle with my amazing wife Charla. As a staff midwife at Maniilaq Health Center I provide care to women and babies of the Northwest Arctic Borough and the village of Point Hope. I was the first nurse selected from Alaska to participate in the prestigious Duke-Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Program completing a project to implement telehealth visits as a part of prenatal care. Caring for the historically disenfranchised has been my career-long vocation, now even more so where providing care is even more difficult due to realities of the inclement arctic weather, geographic isolation, and the vastness of the service area.

As an African-American, same gender loving person I thought I knew firsthand the impact of racism, institutional racism, poverty, and social determinants of health. What I have learned is that these same realities are amplified up here.

In my 25 years, I have served as a midwife in every setting from being one of the early staff midwives of the DC birth center under Ruth Lubic to, rural and regional hospitals in North Carolina and Florida, midwifery education with my wonderful midwifery colleagues at Baystate in Springfield, Massachusetts. I truly understand what it is to be a midwife in every setting.



**Cheri Van Hoover, CNM, MS, FACNM**

**Location: Port Hadlock, WA**

Cheri Van Hoover has been an ardent advocate for women, families, and the profession of midwifery for more than 4 decades, even before becoming a midwife in 1987. A native of Washington State, she lived in California for 32 years, where she received her midwifery education and provided full-scope care for widely diverse populations in varied settings, culminating as assistant clinical professor with the UCSF Faculty OB/GYN Group. Since returning to rural Washington 15 years ago, her clinical practice has focused on outpatient reproductive health and she has served as distance faculty for the Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia University, now Thomas Jefferson University. Her scholarly publications cover diverse topics: health policy education, midwives in politics, midwives as palliative care clinicians, and body art. Cheri's service to ACNM has included the Clinical Practice Committee, Service Director's Network, Membership Committee (Founding Chair), Nominating Committee (elected office), Local Program Committee, Informatics Committee (Founding Member), ACNM Certification Council (Proctor), and Midwives for Universal Healthcare Caucus (Founding Member, Secretary). She has served JMWH since 2001 as editorial board member, contributing editor, and peer reviewer. Honored three times with the ACNM Excellence in Teaching Award, she also received the Philadelphia University Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award, the JMWH Best Review Article of the Year Award, and is an ACNM Fellow. She received recognition as an Honored Guest Lecturer in Health Policy by Georgetown University's CNM/WHNP program. Cheri's many community activities serve as vehicles for wider recognition of midwifery as a profession and promotion of midwifery values. Currently, these include activism in groups dedicated to reproductive justice and local healthcare access, as well as Friends of the Library, Rotary International, and free instruction in partner dance. She ran for local elective office in 2017, coming within 0.7% of winning a seat on the hospital district board of commissioners.

## Candidates for Nominating Committee



**Lauren Abrams, LM, CNM, MSN**

**Location: Brooklyn, NY**

Lauren Abrams, LM, CNM, MSN received her midwifery certification and Masters in Nursing at the Yale University School of Nursing in 1993. Her interest in midwifery and - in particular - in working with childbearing families in underserved and immigrant communities was sparked by her work as a counselor in a Planned Parenthood clinic just outside Washington, DC, and two years as a health education volunteer for the US Peace Corps in Mauritania, West Africa. For 26 years, Lauren has worked in both the hospital and birth center settings in New York City, always in facilities that provide care to families affected by poverty, and for the last 6 years held the position of midwifery director of a busy hospital clinic practice. As a white midwife working in communities of color, she believes it is critical to increase the diversity of the midwifery workforce, and feels the nominating committee can play a part in creating an environment at ACNM that helps midwives of all backgrounds feel both welcome and inspired to participate as members. In addition to her clinical work, Lauren has been active at the local and national levels of ACNM. She has served as Nominating Committee Chair and Secretary for the local chapter of NYC Midwives, as a board member of the Midwifery Business Network, and as a member of the ACNM Awards Committee. She received the ACNM Outstanding Preceptor Award in 2011 and 2013.



**Colleen Donovan-Batson, CNM, MS, ARNP**

**Location: Port Angeles, WA**

Colleen is a CNM/NP and midwifery activist with 30+ years of maternal-child healthcare experience. After practicing for years in large county hospital midwifery services in CA, Colleen currently lives in WA, where she has a small homebirth practice. She has served on the faculty of both direct entry and nurse midwifery programs, and as a preceptor for nurse midwifery distance learning programs. She is active in state, national and international midwifery organizations, promoting unity in the midwifery profession.

Colleen's current experience within ACNM includes membership on the Diversity and Inclusion committee, and service on the BIRTH Team, which addresses bias incidents within the organization and at the annual meeting. She also serves on the Home and Birth Center Committee and has participated in the development of interorganizational papers and statements.

She recently completed a term on the Midwifery Advisory Committee for WA State Department of Health, currently serves on the US MERA steering committee, and is a board member of the Midwives Alliance of North America, also serving as the council representative to the International Confederation of Midwives. Colleen is a mother to three grown children, and a Grammy to three grandchildren, all born into her hands.



**Jessica Ellis, CNM, PHD**

**Location: Salt Lake City, UT**

Jessica Ellis has been a midwife since 2011, spending her career working as both a midwife and a nursing professor. Her training in nursing and midwifery was in Utah. While in graduate school, Jessica moved to Helena Montana, where she worked with women living in rural areas of the state and began teaching nursing students. After a few years, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she continued teaching undergrad nursing students and started teaching graduate students in a Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program. Jessica continued working with underserved women. Her favorite job while in Atlanta was working the teen family planning clinic, a title X downtown Atlanta. While in Atlanta, Jessica completed a Ph.D. program at Georgia State University. Now she is back in Utah, where she works as a midwife in a full scope practice and as a nursing professor teaching and researching at the University of Utah. Through the years, Jessica has been active professionally at the state and national levels with the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She has served in affiliate leadership in Montana, Georgia, and Utah. Her favorite position in affiliate leadership was serving as the affiliate secretary while in Georgia. While in this position, she had the opportunity to participate in the election process, using the bylaws as guidance in a large, well-organized affiliate. Currently, she is serving on the nominating committee for the Utah affiliate. She has served on many committees at the national level, including the Division of standards and practice in the clinical practice documents section, the research committee in the dissemination section, and as a founding member of the Affiliate Development and Support Committee.



**Gwendolyn Foster, CNM, MSN**

**Location: Palo Verde, CA**

Colonel Gwendolyn A. Foster is the Commander, 412th Medical Group, 412th Test Wing, Edwards Air Force Base, California. As commander, she is responsible for establishing policies and maintaining standards of practice to govern all medical, dental and support programs for 7,500 beneficiaries and 12,500 personnel assigned. Her command authority spans two squadron commanders and a staff of more than 240 personnel. Colonel Foster also serves as the primary medical advisor to the installation commander. She directs a \$10 million dollar budget, formulates plans, and coordinates healthcare activities for the Edwards community. In this capacity, she also advises on nominations for leadership positions and promotion recommendations which make her very well suited for the nominating committee.





**Linda McDaniel, CNM, DNP**

**Location: Brooklyn, NY**

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 worked as a solo midwife in a small practice in West Georgia for six years. She has worked with women in rural and city environments from different walks of life. She has been instrumental in developing a smoking cessation protocol at her former employer and plays an integral part on the Women's Health steering committee in keeping staff and providers aware of updated practice guidelines and developing patient education initiatives.

Dr. McDaniel serves on several committees at Frontier Nursing University including the scholarship committee, student emergency fund committee, diversity and inclusion committee, and tobacco-free committee. She is on the American College of Nurse-Midwifery publications and peer-review committees. Also, she is an external article reviewer for the American Midwifery Certification Board. She embraces every opportunity to empower others to fulfill their educational and career goals.

Her primary clinical and academic interests are tobacco cessation, human trafficking, second victim phenomenon, and breast cancer complications. Dr. McDaniel is a co-author on a tobacco-free and breast cancer survivor articles. She was a contributor author for a United States postal stamp for midwives.

She serves on the board of a location foundation that focuses on promoting awareness of nursing and midwifery care. She is instrumental in establishing and funding a student midwifery scholarship fund for the foundation. She is a Shared Hoped International Ambassador where she is working to bring awareness about human/sex trafficking and justice for victims. She works with a local domestic minor sex trafficking rehabilitation shelter during their rehabilitation phase.



**Mary Murphy-Smith, CNM, IBCLC, DNP**

**Location: Chicago IL**

Mary Murphy Smith is an Associate Professor of Nursing at Saint Xavier University, Chicago IL. She graduated with a BSN from Saint Xavier University, a MSN from the University of Illinois, Chicago and a DNP from Rush University, Chicago. Additionally, she is an APRN with Board Certification in Midwifery and Lactation. Her expertise is in women's health, lactation and natural family planning. She is currently the Governance Chair of Sigma Theta Tau - Alpha Omicron Chapter. Additionally, she is an active member with the International Lactation Consultant Association and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrical and Neonatal Nursing.

Mary practiced as a midwife in full scope practice in Chicago. She served as recording secretary and a member of the nominating committee for the American College of Nurse Midwives-Illinois Affiliate. In addition to her full-time faculty role, Mary mentors new nurses and midwives in her role as a labor and delivery nurse. Mary participates on several lactation support groups, task force and domestic violence support groups. She is ready to tap into the network of the diverse midwifery membership and encourage their participation with the organization. Her extensive experience serving on several boards and committees has prepared her for taking on the responsibilities required for the nominating committee.





## **Plan now for the 2020/2021 ACNM Election Cycle!**

**Nominations will open in April 2020 for the following positions:**

- President Elect
- Secretary
- Region II
- Region V
- Nominating Committee (2)

For more information contact Venay Uecke, CNM Nominating Committee Chair, at [Youngmidwife@gmail.com](mailto:Youngmidwife@gmail.com) using the subject line: **Call for Nominations**

