

pulse

Texas Nurse Practitioners Magazine Spring 2026



COMMUNITY IMPACT ISSUE

**MAKE
an IMPACT**

Board of Directors
Candidates

Telehealth
Advocacy Win

NP Community
Impact Profiles

Risk Education:
Reducing Patient Falls

Texas NP Foundation
Annual Report

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**Have a Scope of Practice Question?
Ask TNP’s Practice Consultant**

John Gonzalez
DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC,
ANP-C, CNE



TNP Leadership

2025-2026 TNP Board of Directors



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Community as Catalyst: The Power of Nurse Practitioners in Action

By Dr. Tracy Hicks, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAANP, FIAAN, FAAN
President, Texas Nurse Practitioners



Reminder:

“Restricted NP practice anywhere is restricted access to care everywhere!”

Community is not just where we practice—it is why we practice.

As nurse practitioners, we are uniquely positioned at the intersection of clinical care, leadership, and advocacy. We do not simply serve communities—we are embedded within them. We understand their strengths, their gaps, and their potential. And more importantly, we act.

This issue of *TNP Pulse* highlights what I believe is one of the most powerful aspects of our profession: **our collective impact on community health and well-being across Texas.**

The TNP Community: More Than Membership—A Movement

Texas Nurse Practitioners is not just an organization—it is a community of leaders, innovators, and change agents. Every day, I am inspired by the work happening across our state:

- NPs expanding access to care in rural and underserved areas
- NPs leading integrated care models that address both physical and behavioral health
- NPs advocating at the legislative level to remove barriers and advance full practice authority
- NPs mentoring and educating the next generation of clinicians and leaders

This is what a community looks like in action. And it is exactly why involvement matters.

When you engage with TNP—whether through committees, conferences, advocacy efforts, or mentorship—you are not just participating. You are shaping the future of healthcare in Texas.

Celebrating Impact: Honoring Those Who Lead the Way

In this issue, we proudly highlight our **Community Impact Award winner**—a nurse practitioner who exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose.

These individuals are not waiting for change—they are creating it.

They are building programs, strengthening systems, and meeting patients where they are. They remind us that leadership is not defined by title—it is defined by action.

I encourage each of you to reflect on your own impact. The work you are doing matters. And it deserves to be recognized, elevated, and shared.

[Continued >>](#)



Our strength is not in what we do alone, but in what we do together.

Dr. Tracy Hicks
TNP President



Investing in the Future: The TNP Foundation

Strong communities require intentional investment—and that is exactly what the TNP Foundation represents.

Through scholarships, grants, and strategic initiatives, the Foundation is building a sustainable pipeline of nurse practitioners who are prepared to lead, innovate, and serve.

In this issue, you will see:

- The **annual report**, highlighting the measurable impact of your support
- Stories from **scholarship recipients**, demonstrating the real-world return on investment
- The introduction of the **new CE grant program**, expanding opportunities for continued professional growth

This is how we move forward—not individually, but collectively.

Advocacy as a Professional Responsibility

If there is one message I want to emphasize, it is this:

Advocacy is not optional—it is essential.

Our patients, our profession, and our communities depend on us to use our voices, whether that means:

- Engaging in policy discussions
- Building partnerships within your local community
- Educating stakeholders about the role of nurse practitioners
- Supporting organizational initiatives like TNP
- **Contributions to the PAC**

Every action contributes to a larger movement.

We cannot afford to be passive participants in a system that requires transformation. We must be active architects of that change. Advocacy is not a spectator sport.

A Call to Action

As you read this issue, I invite you to ask yourself:

- How am I contributing to my community as a nurse practitioner?
- Where can I expand my impact?
- How can I support and engage with the broader TNP community?

Because the truth is—our strength is not in what we do alone, but in what we do together.

Community is our foundation.

Advocacy is our responsibility.

Leadership is our calling.

And the future of healthcare in Texas will be shaped by those who choose to engage. Let's continue to show up—for our patients, for our profession, and for each other.

TNP Board of Directors Elections for 2026-2027

Meet the 2026 Candidates for the TNP Board of Directors

TNP is pleased to present the following individuals for your consideration for election to the Texas Nurse Practitioners Board of Directors.

TNP members with voting rights (Legacy, Regular, First-Year Graduate, and Retired member types) were sent an email containing the slate of candidates and a linked ballot for voting on Tuesday, April 28, titled "TNP Board Elections: Meet Our Candidates & Vote Today." If you did not receive an email, please contact Connie at connie@texasnp.org.

The four candidates receiving the most votes will serve on the 2026–2026 TNP Board of Directors. Voting will close at 11:59 p. m. (CST) on May 15, 2026. Results will be posted on texasnp.org and shared via email.

Candidates

Meet Board Candidate:
**Stephanie Atkinson DNP,
APRN, FNP-C (Incumbent)**



Dr. Stephanie Atkinson has been a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner since 2011. She received her undergraduate training from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Science from Texas Woman's University-Dallas, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Johns Hopkins University.

She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, a past President of North Texas Nurse Practitioners, and serves as a Legislative Ambassador for Texas Nurse Practitioners. She has held teaching positions at Texas Woman's University and Johns Hopkins University and is a past recipient of the NTNP Preceptor of the Year award.

Dr. Atkinson is also a contributing author and editor of an interprofessional collaborative care textbook and a proud advocate for nurse practitioners practicing to the full extent of their education. She co-owns her own primary care practice in DFW, which was recently awarded the 2025 Best Primary Care Practice in McKinney. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her family and golden retrievers, Boris and Willow.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Engagement: I strive to expand and innovate member engagement through meaningful networking, modern platforms, and value-driven opportunities that strengthen connection, collaboration, and professional growth.

Goal 2: Advocacy: To advance legislative and regulatory advocacy that protects, elevates, and expands the nurse practitioner profession and ensures patient access to high-quality care.

Goal 3: Service: To serve Texas nurse practitioners by strengthening support systems, addressing practice challenges, and promoting professional growth statewide.

Campaign Message

I would be honored to continue serving on TNP's Board of Directors. I remain committed to advocating for Texas nurse practitioners and advancing our profession through unity, innovation, and meaningful engagement. I will continue to foster opportunities that connect nurse practitioners and elevate the collective voice of our profession. As clinicians, educators, and advocates, we work tirelessly for our patients, and together our voice is stronger and more impactful. I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving on the Board and am committed to representing and incorporating the needs and perspectives of all TNP members.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Stephanie Atkinson's video message.

**Barbara Chapman DNP,
MBA, APRN, FNP-C, EBP-C,
NHDP-BE, PMHNP-BC
(Incumbent)**



Dr. Barbara Chapman is a nurse leader, educator, and clinician with extensive experience in nursing innovation, workforce development, and healthcare policy. As one of the Founding Faculty members who helped build the first College of Nursing and the first Nurse Practitioner program at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, she serves as an Associate Professor and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Program Coordinator. In this role, she advances nursing education through telehealth integration and policy advocacy to expand equitable access to care, particularly for rural and underserved communities across Texas.

Her work has focused on developing and integrating mental health services into primary care settings and advancing statewide nursing policy. She currently serves on the Texas Nurse Practitioners Board of Directors as Treasurer. She also serves on the Texas Nurses Association Regulation and Full Practice Committee, where she has authored and co-authored key position statements, including those addressing Just Culture and Schedule II prescribing authority, both under legislative consideration.

Grounded in Evidence-Based Practice certification and committed to healthcare innovation, her leadership supports the HRSA mission to strengthen the healthcare workforce and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Advocacy must remain central by advancing full practice authority, strengthening year-round legislative relationships, empowering grassroots engagement, equipping members with advocacy tools, and expanding rural visibility.

Goal 2: Workforce development requires academic-practice partnerships, mentorship for early-career NPs, structured leadership pathways, and preparation for emerging healthcare needs.

Goal 3: Member services should continue to provide transparent regulatory updates, provide Nurse practitioner billing education, specialty networking forums, improved digital engagement platforms, and regional leadership councils.

Campaign Message

It is a true privilege to serve on the Texas Nurse Practitioners Board of Directors, and I am excited to seek your support to continue this important work. Our profession is at a pivotal moment, and TNP must remain bold, strategic, and united. As Treasurer, I have worked to ensure strong financial stewardship, so TNP remains stable and is positioned for growth. As a Legislative Ambassador, I actively engaged at the Capitol to advance practice authority for nurse practitioners across Texas. As an educator and program leader, I am invested in developing the next generation of NPs who carry our profession forward.

I believe our future relies on strong advocacy, innovative thinking, and meaningful engagement from every member, whether rural or urban, new graduate or seasoned leader.

Together, we can strengthen our voice, expand opportunity, and shape the future of healthcare in Texas. I would be honored to continue serving you.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Barbara Chapman's video message.

Brenda Olmos PhD, APRN, FNP-C, CNE-cl



Dr. Brenda Olmos is an accomplished NP, educator, and workforce development leader committed to advancing high-quality, equitable healthcare for Texans. She currently serves as the APP Administrator for Education & Development at Baylor Scott & White Health, where she leads onboarding and continuing education for approximately 900 advanced practice providers across multiple regions, strengthening clinical readiness and professional excellence statewide.

Dr. Olmos brings more than a decade of clinical experience in geriatric and adult primary care, along with a strong academic background as a faculty member at multiple universities, where she taught mental health, evidence-based practice, leadership, and advanced assessment courses. Her research focuses on healthcare discrimination, chronic illness, and health disparities among Hispanic older adults, reflecting her commitment to advancing health equity.

A dedicated leader, she has served as President of Austin APNs (2025–26) and was the Founding President of the NAHN Austin Chapter, establishing a lasting platform for mentorship, advocacy, and community health engagement. Her leadership within TNP includes service on the TNP Education Committee (2022–24).

Dr. Olmos is passionate about strengthening the NP profession through education, advocacy, and inclusive leadership, and she remains dedicated to empowering clinicians and improving the health of all Texans.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Advance statewide NP workforce education by expanding high-quality, accessible learning opportunities, leveraging my experience overseeing large-scale APP development to strengthen TNP's mission and member preparedness.

Goal 2: Build a statewide mentorship/leadership pipeline that connects early career and experienced NPs, enhancing membership engagement, fostering diversity, and strengthening local NP groups for long-term organizational success.

Goal 3: Expand TNP's advocacy impact by mobilizing member participation, strengthening community partnerships, and advancing equitable, culturally responsive policy initiatives that improve holistic, accessible healthcare for Texans.

Campaign Message

I am honored to run for the TNP Board of Directors. As the APP Administrator for Education & Development at Baylor Scott & White, I support onboarding and professional development for nearly 900 advanced practice providers, strengthening clinical excellence across Central Texas.

My background as faculty at Texas A&M, Texas State, and UT Austin reflects my commitment to preparing the next generation of NPs through evidence-based education and mentorship. I bring strong organizational leadership through roles such as President of Austin Advanced Practice Nurses and Founding President of the NAHN Austin Chapter, where I built sustainable programs focused on advocacy, mentorship, and community health. My service on the TNP Education Committee has further prepared me to advance TNP's mission of empowering NPs and improving the health of all Texans.

If elected, I will champion education, strengthen membership engagement, and elevate advocacy efforts to ensure a strong future for Texas NPs.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Brenda Olmos's video message.

Ilaria Reyes MSN, APRN, FNP-C (Incumbent)



Ilaria “Lala” Reyes began her career after earning her Associate Degree in Nursing from Del Mar College. She practiced as a registered nurse for 13 years across multiple specialties before obtaining her Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. She is board-certified through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

She completed preceptorships throughout the Coastal Bend and previously specialized in Hematology/Oncology. Her clinical experience also includes caring for individuals with disabilities and the elderly in South Texas. She currently practices at QC Clinic & Labs, providing preventive and urgent care services to patients across the Coastal Bend.

She is a dedicated leader and advocate. She has served as President of the Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses and currently serves as Advocacy Chair. She stays active with Mission of Mercy and local healthcare initiatives. At the state level, she has been a member-at-large and previously served as Chair for TNP’s Policy Council.

Her honors include Outstanding Graduate Student (TAMUCC), CBAPN NP of the Year, TNP Community Impact Award, AANP Texas Advocate State Award, Leaders of Impact (AHA), Mission of Mercy Impact Award, and the TNP President’s Leadership Award.

She proudly advocates for Texas nurse practitioners.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Strengthen grassroots advocacy by mentoring students and new graduate NPs, expanding political engagement opportunities, and building stronger local-to-statewide networks supporting legislative priorities.

Goal 2: Increase member engagement and retention by fostering inclusive networking environments, encouraging active participation at meetings and events, and ensuring members feel valued and connected.

Goal 3: Expand regional continuing education opportunities by securing specialty conferences, promoting clinical excellence, and improving access to professional development for nurse practitioners across underserved communities.

Campaign Message

My campaign is rooted in service, advocacy, and empowerment. From bedside nursing to advanced practice, I have dedicated my career to improving patient care and now strengthen the voice of nurse practitioners across Texas. With experience in clinical practice, leadership, and policy, I understand both the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead.

Through my work at the local and state levels, I have built strong grassroots networks, mentored new graduate NPs, and actively engaged in legislative advocacy to protect and advance our profession. I believe our strength lies in unity. When we connect locally, we influence statewide.

My vision is to continue expanding advocacy efforts, increasing member engagement, supporting professional development, and ensuring every NP feels valued and represented. Together, we can build momentum and improve access and outcomes for all Texans.

Let’s move forward. Stronger, United, and Empowered.



[Click here](#) to view Ilaria Reyes’s video message.

Alissa Strambler-Rios DNP, APRN, FNP-C



Dr. Alissa Strambler Rios, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, is a Family Nurse Practitioner with 13 years of experience in family practice, substance use treatment, and pain management. She championed an integrated care model that streamlines medical, behavioral health, and addiction services to improve access and outcomes for underserved populations at a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center. Dr. Strambler Rios has also contributed to statewide opioid policy efforts, including the filing of Texas House Bill 5521, legislation focused on expanding access to opioid antagonists for overdose emergencies across public venues.

She serves as a Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP) Legislative Ambassador, working directly with policymakers to advance evidence-based addiction care, improve patient access, and strengthen NP practice authority. As a founding board member of Brazosport Area Nurse Practitioners, she has served as Secretary, Student Liaison, and, currently, Legislative Ambassador, supporting NP engagement, leadership development, and advocacy across the region.

To broaden her clinical expertise, Dr. Strambler Rios is currently pursuing her Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) certification with an anticipated graduation date in 2026. Dr. Strambler Rios is committed to elevating NP voices, expanding integrated care models, and advancing safe, effective approaches to substance use and pain management throughout Texas.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Enhance nurse practitioners' ability to address substance use disorders by

promoting evidence-based treatment, expanding MAT access, and strengthening education to support comprehensive addiction care statewide.

Goal 2: Promote mentorship and professional involvement by empowering nurse practitioners to engage in leadership, advocacy, education, and collaborative growth within Texas Nurse Practitioners.

Goal 3: Support nurse practitioner autonomy by advocating policies that eliminate unnecessary barriers, strengthen practice authority, and expand patient access to timely, high-quality NP-led care.

Campaign Message

As a Family Nurse Practitioner with 13 years of experience in family practice, substance use treatment, and pain management, I am committed to strengthening the future of nurse practitioners in Texas. I have dedicated my career to improving access to safe, evidence-based addiction care and helped develop an integrated care model that expands support for patients across diverse settings.

My work as a TNP Legislative Ambassador and advocacy around Texas HB 5521 reflects my dedication to advancing meaningful policy that protects patients and empowers NPs. If elected to the TNP Board of Directors, I will continue to advance NP autonomy, elevate our role in addressing the substance use crisis, and foster mentorship that encourages more NPs to lead, advocate, and engage. Together, we can build a stronger, unified voice that supports our profession, improves patient care, and shapes the future of healthcare in Texas.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Alissa Strambler-Rios's video message.

Kate Taylor DNP, FNP-C, CPPS, FNAP



Dr. Kate Taylor, DNP, FNP-C, CPPS, FNAP, is a board-certified family nurse practitioner with 29 years of healthcare experience and prior service as an Army Nurse Corps officer. Her clinical background includes hospital medicine and outpatient geriatric primary care. She serves as Assistant Dean of Clinical and Outreach Affairs and Associate Professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Nursing, with an adjunct appointment at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Taylor remains clinically active in both the Center for Older Adults clinic and the House Calls program, caring for medically complex older adults and leading advanced care planning discussions with patients and families.

In her academic leadership role, she partners with health systems and community organizations to expand meaningful clinical training opportunities for nursing students across programs and levels, helping strengthen the future nursing workforce in Texas.

She serves as a Legislative Ambassador for Texas Nurse Practitioners, Secretary of the AACN Practice Leadership Network, and a board member of Dementia Friendly Fort Worth.

Dr. Taylor is a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice and recipient of the Mildred O. Hogstel Award and the Texas Nurse Practitioners Visionary Award.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Strengthen alignment and communication between TNP leadership and regional chapters to ensure consistent messaging, shared priorities, and responsive member engagement.

Goal 2: Support the development of an advocacy mentorship pipeline that connects experienced ambassadors with early-career nurse practitioners to sustain legislative engagement.

Goal 3: Explore strategic partnerships that elevate the visibility and value of nurse practitioners within Texas health systems and community organizations.

Campaign Message

I am proud to be a Texas nurse practitioner. Let's move our profession forward. As a practicing NP, educator, and legislative ambassador, I understand how policy decisions, education, and day-to-day clinical care shape our work. I am especially passionate about caring for older adults, serving vulnerable populations, supporting whole-person care, and strengthening nursing education across Texas.

TNP plays an essential role in protecting our practice authority, elevating our voice, and connecting nurse practitioners statewide. If elected, I will focus on steady leadership, clear communication, and preparing the next generation of NP advocates.

Together, we can continue advancing nurse practitioner practice and improving access to quality care for Texans. It would be an honor to serve you.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Kate Taylor's video message.

Antay Waters PhD, DNP,
APRN, WHNP-BC, CNM,
CRNFA, CNE, C-OBE,
C-EFM, CNOR-SURG-OB,
FNPWH



Dr. Antay Waters serves as an associate professor in academia and practices as a certified nurse-midwife, women's health nurse practitioner, and certified registered nurse first assist with OB Hospitalist Group in Tyler and Texarkana, Texas. She has been an active TNP member since 2015.

Dr. Waters' research focuses on severe maternal morbidity in Texas. Her clinical expertise encompasses maternal health equity, healthcare access disparities, rural maternal health, and quality improvement in perinatal care. She authored the Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM) Certification Review in 2024, which was followed by the accompanying video-on-demand course in 2025, and has published articles on women's health and quality improvement in multiple professional journals.

She is an inaugural Fellow of the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) and recipient of the 2025 NPWH Inspiration in Women's Health Award for Policy and the 2025 DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educators. She has presented nationally and internationally on a variety of topics. Dr. Waters serves as Chair-Elect for NPWH Fellows, Lead Legislative Ambassador for Texas Nurse Practitioners, Texas AIM Implementation Mentor, and on the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council, TNP Policy Committee, NPWH Research and Quality Improvement Committee, and on the CJNPWH Editorial Board.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Increase TNP Membership and Elevate Public Awareness of the NP Role

Goal 2: Strengthen Year-Round Legislative Advocacy and Member Engagement in Policy

Goal 3: Expand Accessible, High-Quality Professional Development Offerings

Campaign Message

I am running for the TNP Board of Directors because I believe our organization must be as bold and dynamic as the nurse practitioners we represent. TNP's future depends on sustained legislative advocacy, accessible professional development, and a growing membership that reflects every NP across Texas.

As a nurse practitioner in both academia and clinical practice with board and committee experience, I bring both strategic vision and a proven ability to follow through. I am committed to supporting year-round advocacy infrastructure and virtual education offerings to reach NPs in every corner of our state, as well as forging interprofessional partnerships that amplify our collective voice. Our profession is at a pivotal moment. Texas NPs deserve an organization that is visible, vocal, and relentless in advancing our practice. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and do the work. I humbly ask for your vote and your trust.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Antay Waters's video message.

**Tracy Wilson DNP, MBe,
MSN. Ed., APRN, FNP-C,
FAANP, FADLN, FNAP**



Dr. Tracy R. Wilson is a nurse scientist and medical affairs leader with 23+ years of experience spanning patient advocacy, family nursing, clinical education, and interdisciplinary program design. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Belmont University, completed post-master Family Nurse Practitioner certification at the University of Kentucky, and holds an MS in Bioethics from Tulane University School of Medicine and an MS in Nursing Education from Bellarmine University.

Dr. Wilson serves as a Medical Science Liaison at Cristcot, supporting a product for GI and Ulcerative Colitis that is pending FDA approval. Most recently, she served as a Medical Science Liaison at ARS Pharmaceuticals, supporting an FDA-approved therapy for allergies and anaphylaxis. She partners with key opinion leaders and clinicians to translate evidence into practice, deliver scientific education, and advance equitable access to emergency care. From 2019–2024, she was a Field Medical Director for antivirals at Pfizer, helping launch 6 products and supporting initiatives to reduce disparities.

A sought-after speaker and panelist, she is a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the Academy of Diversity Leaders in Nursing and has received honors including the NBNA President's Award, a Patient Impact Award, and the DAISY Award for Nurses Advancing Health Equity. She was recently inducted as a Distinguished Scholar Fellow of the National Academies of Practice in March 2026.

Statement of Goals

Goal 1: Create a short, published list of the top 10 friction points (website navigation, CE access, renewal confusion, response times) and fix them with deadlines.

Goal 2: A simple, repeatable onboarding sequence: welcome email + “How to use TNP” video + roadmap + “who to contact.”

Goal 3: When something breaks (legislation, scope threat, payer change), members want clarity fast. Establish templates + a 48-hour response expectation + single source of truth page.

Campaign Message

I'm running for the TNP Board because Texas nurse practitioners deserve leadership that delivers—on advocacy, education, and the future of our profession. I bring 23+ years of frontline and systems-level experience as a nurse scientist, Family Nurse Practitioner, and medical affairs leader, translating evidence into practice and improving access to lifesaving care.

As your Board member, I will help strengthen TNP's voice at the Capitol, expand practical, practice-ready education, and ensure every member—across rural, urban, and underserved communities—feels supported, informed, and represented. I will champion a clearer, faster member experience, stronger leadership development pathways, and partnerships that amplify NP impact across Texas.

This isn't about titles—it's about outcomes: protecting NP practice, elevating our profession, and advancing equitable care for the people who need us most. Let's lead with purpose—and win together.

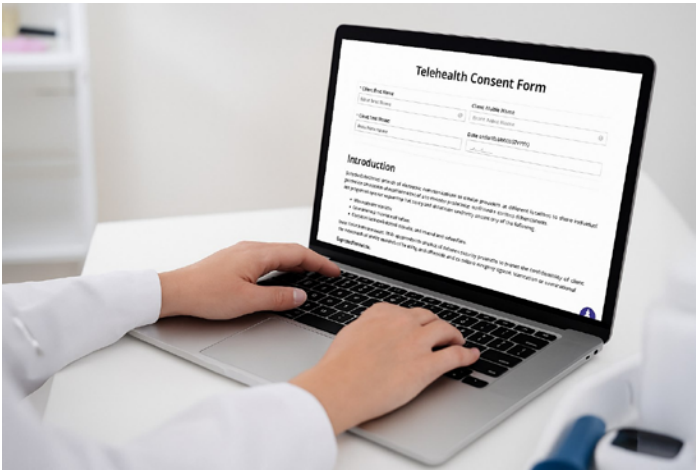


[Click here](#) to view Dr. Tracy Wilson's video message.

**TNP Members: Check your email for the message titled
“TNP Board Elections: Meet Our Candidates & Vote Today.”
If you did not receive an email, please contact Connie at connie@texasnp.org.**

Voting closes at 11:59 p. m. (CST) on May 15, 2026.

TNP Advocacy Win: BON Adopts Telehealth Rules Reflecting Member Input



TNP is pleased to share a major advocacy win for our members and the patients we serve. The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) has **adopted final rules implementing HB 1700 from the 89th Legislative Session**—a bill establishing requirements for patient consent in telehealth—and accepted TNP’s requested changes in full. This outcome ensures the rules align with legislative intent while preserving patient access and reducing unnecessary administrative burden.

As proposed, the rules would have required written, signed consent for all telehealth encounters, including audio-only care, and mandated disclosure of delegating physician information. TNP raised concerns that these provisions went beyond the law, created confusion, and risked limiting access—particularly for rural and underserved patients and those receiving care by phone.

The adopted rules reflect a more patient-centered and flexible approach. Consistent with HB 1700, the BON now allows for verbal consent in audio-only encounters, with appropriate documentation in the patient record, and has removed the unnecessary requirement to include delegating physician details in the consent process. These changes reduce barriers to care while maintaining appropriate patient protections.

This is a strong example of TNP’s advocacy in action. We appreciate the Board’s responsiveness and commitment to aligning rules with statute and clinical practice. TNP will continue to monitor implementation and advocate for policies that ensure NPs can focus on what matters most—caring for patients, not paperwork.

TNP
Texas Nurse Practitioners

**TEXAS NPs
LOVE
TNP**

“I recently started my own practice and appreciate the legislative work TNP does on our behalf.”

Amy Owens Horelica, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Member since 2023

TNP Convention Victories Across the State

This spring, more than 60 of TNP's dedicated Legislative Ambassadors stepped into the grassroots arena—participating in political party precinct and county conventions across Texas.

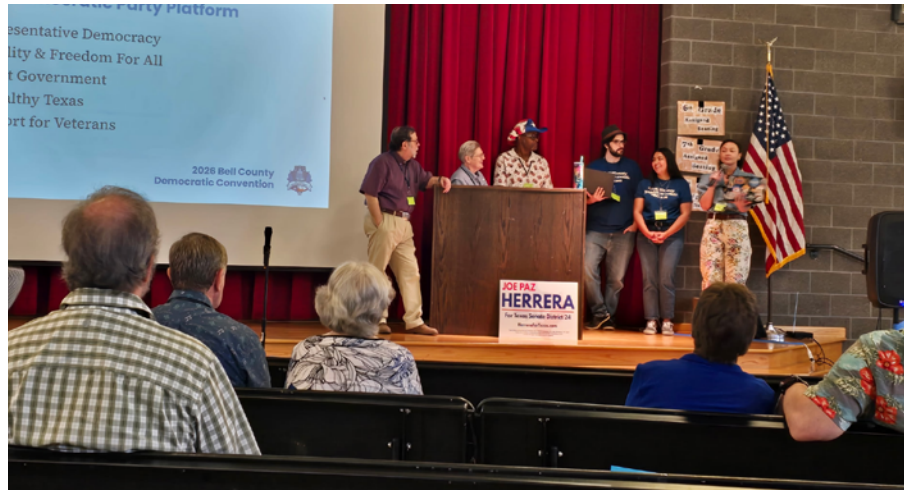
Their mission: educate voters and party leaders on nurse practitioner policy priorities and elevate full practice authority as a key plank in both Republican and Democratic state party platforms.

These conventions are a critical—but often overlooked—part of the advocacy process in Texas. They are where ideas become resolutions, and resolutions shape party platforms that guide lawmakers during the legislative session. By showing up early in this process, TNP ensures that nurse practitioner priorities are not just heard but embedded in the policy agendas that drive real change.

We are proud to report that resolutions supporting NP full practice authority passed in nearly every county where TNP participated—including strategically important regions like Harris, Dallas, Travis, Bexar, Gregg, Fort Bend, Tarrant, and Hidalgo counties, among others.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers for their time, energy, and commitment. Your voices are shaping the future of healthcare in Texas—one resolution at a time.

As momentum builds, we wish our NPs continued success at the upcoming state Republican and Democratic conventions in June.



Workforce, Access, Affordability: NPs at the Center of Newly Released Interim Charges

April marked a significant development in Texas health policy as Speaker Dustin Burrows released interim charges for the Texas House—setting the stage for legislative priorities ahead of the 90th Legislative Session.

Interim charges guide the work of House committees between sessions, directing lawmakers to study key issues, hold hearings, and develop recommendations that often become the foundation for future legislation. In short, what gets studied now often gets passed later.

For TNP, some of the most important activity will occur in the House Public Health Committee, where several charges align directly with TNP's policy priorities. Most notably, **Charge 6** directs lawmakers to examine Texas' growing **health care workforce** shortage and identify solutions to improve access to care and service delivery across the state.

As demand for care continues to outpace provider supply, this charge creates a clear opportunity to advance full practice authority as a proven, cost-effective solution.



Nurse practitioners are uniquely positioned to expand access—particularly in rural and underserved areas—and ensuring lawmakers understand this role will be critical in shaping policy recommendations during the interim.

Charge 2, which focuses on the **Rural Health Transformation Program**, further underscores the Legislature's attention to access, workforce stability, and provider sustainability. Alongside additional charges on telehealth, public health trends, and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, these priorities reflect a broader push toward innovation and system efficiency.

In addition, Speaker Burrows announced the creation of a new Select Committee on Health Care Affordability, chaired by Representative Frank, signaling a strong legislative focus on cost drivers, transparency, and system reform.

The interim period is a critical window to engage lawmakers, shape the narrative, and ensure nurse practitioners are central to the solutions Texas is developing. TNP will remain actively engaged and keep members informed as public hearings on these charges move forward.

TNP
Texas Nurse Practitioners

TEXAS NPs
LOVE
TNP

"The thing I love most about TNP is the conferences and the support with legislation."

Sherry Darbonne, DNP, FNP
TNP member since 2023

Texas NP Continuing Education: Here's What's New!

Free/Open
to All NPs

AI in Clinical Practice: What Texas NPs Need to Know About SB 1188

A new law affecting Texas NPs is now in effect.

Texas Nurse Practitioners is offering this free CE webinar to help ensure Texas NPs understand SB 1188 and what it means for the use of AI in healthcare.

AI in Clinical Practice: What Texas NPs Need to Know About SB 1188

May 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM CT | Zoom
Registration required



This session will cover:

- SB 1188 requirements for Texas providers
- Disclosure and consent in clinical settings
- EHR, documentation, and vendor considerations
- Compliance, ethics, and real-world AI use
- Practical steps to take now

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Learners will demonstrate knowledge gained from this activity by identifying two (2) evidence-based insights (knowledge pearls) related to the history and exam, diagnostic workup, treatment planning, or need for consultation for patients with pancytopenia that they intend to apply in their clinical practice.

Learners will be awarded 2 Contact Hours. Completion of the course and evaluation are required.

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Making a Difference: Nurse Practitioners in Their Communities

Nurse Practitioners play a vital role in improving the health and well-being of communities across Texas and beyond. Whether providing care in rural clinics, supporting vulnerable populations, advancing education, or addressing complex public health challenges, NPs bring a unique combination of clinical expertise, leadership, and service to the communities they serve.

The following stories highlight just a few of the many ways Nurse Practitioners are making an impact. Through innovation, compassion, and commitment, these leaders are expanding access to care, strengthening communities, and shaping the future of healthcare—one patient, one family, and one community at a time.



**Bridging the Gap:
Dr. Anna Jessup's
Commitment
to Rural and
Underserved
Communities**



Nurse Practitioners are often on the front lines of care in communities with limited access to healthcare. Through dedication, leadership, and service, they help close critical gaps in care—especially for rural and underserved populations. Dr. Anna Jessup exemplifies this impact.

With a strong background in nursing, global health, and healthcare management, Dr. Jessup has built her career on improving access to care for those who need it most. Her work in rural practice reflects a deep commitment to serving uninsured and vulnerable populations, ensuring that quality healthcare extends beyond urban centers.

As the owner of a rural healthcare clinic in Thrall, Texas, Dr. Jessup provides essential, community-based care in an area where resources are often scarce. Her clinic serves as a lifeline for patients who might otherwise face significant barriers to timely, consistent healthcare.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Jessup generously gives her time—volunteering nearly 200 hours each year with Samaritan Health Ministries. Her service supports individuals and families who rely on charitable healthcare, further extending her impact in the community.

Dr. Jessup generously gives her time—volunteering nearly 200 hours each year with Samaritan Health Ministries. Her service supports individuals and families who rely on charitable healthcare...

Dr. Jessup also plays a vital role in shaping the future of nursing education. As Graduate Nursing Director at Schreiner University, she has led major initiatives, including program redesign, faculty engagement, accreditation of the Family Nurse Practitioner program, and the development of a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program. Her leadership across undergraduate and graduate programs has strengthened academic standards and fostered an innovative, forward-thinking curriculum.

Through her hands-on leadership and dedication to student success, Dr. Jessup is preparing the next generation of nurse practitioners to meet healthcare's evolving demands—especially in underserved areas.

Dr. Jessup's work is a powerful reminder of the impact Nurse Practitioners have every day. Whether in a rural clinic, a volunteer setting, or the classroom, her commitment continues to expand access, improve outcomes, and strengthen communities across Texas.



**Compassionate
Leader, Educator,
and Advocate:
Dr. Faheemah
Hannah's Impact on
Community Care**



Nurse Practitioners (NPs) play a vital role in strengthening the health and well-being of communities across Texas and beyond. Through clinical expertise, education, and service, NPs often serve as both healthcare providers and trusted community leaders. Few embody this impact more fully than Dr. Faheemah Hannah.

Dr. Hannah is a compassionate leader, educator, and advocate whose career has been defined by service, healing, and empowerment. At Texas Woman's University, she serves as Associate Clinical Professor and MSN Program Director on the Dallas campus, where she is shaping the next generation of nurses by instilling a strong foundation in excellence, integrity, and community-focused care.

Her influence extends far beyond the classroom. As a Faith Community Nurse, Dr. Hannah provides spiritual and emotional support to individuals and families experiencing grief and loss. Her work highlights the unique role NPs can play in delivering holistic care—addressing not only physical health but also emotional and spiritual well-being during life's most difficult moments.

With more than 20 years of service with Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., Dr. Hannah has left a lasting impact on the nursing profession. As Provider Unit Regional Nurse Planner for Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, she has led efforts to expand continuing education opportunities and to advance the integration of spiritual care into nursing practice. Her leadership has helped equip nurses to better serve diverse and underserved communities with cultural awareness and compassion.

Her work highlights the unique role NPs can play in delivering holistic care—addressing not only physical health but also emotional and spiritual well-being during life's most difficult moments.

Dr. Hannah's commitment to community health extends beyond state lines. Through her partnership with Impact for Community Change, she has helped expand access to faith-based continuing education for nurses. Most recently, her work took her to Jamaica, where she delivered a holistic and spiritual wellness educational session attended by 125 individuals and supported direct medical screenings for 60 community members.

Her work is a powerful example of how Nurse Practitioners impact communities at every level—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. Through education, service, and advocacy, Dr. Hannah continues to demonstrate the meaningful difference NPs make in advancing health, healing, and connection.

As healthcare continues to evolve, the role of Nurse Practitioners remains essential—not only in providing care but also in building stronger, healthier communities for all.



Caring for the Forgotten: Dr. Janet Jowitt's Impact in Geriatric and Correctional Health



Nurse Practitioners play a critical role in caring for populations that are often overlooked. Through specialized expertise, education, and service, they help ensure that even the most vulnerable individuals receive high-quality, compassionate care. Dr. Janet Jowitt's career exemplifies this impact.

With more than 25 years of nursing experience, Dr. Jowitt has built a distinguished career in geriatric and correctional healthcare. Board-certified in Adult/Geriatric Primary Care, she brings deep clinical expertise and a commitment to safe, high-quality care in every setting she serves.

Currently an inaugural faculty member at the UNT Health Science Center College of Nursing, Dr. Jowitt continues to shape the future of nursing. Her previous role as an Assistant Professor at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine further reflects her dedication to education and building strong healthcare teams grounded in excellence.

Dr. Jowitt's passion for older adults and correctional health sets her apart as a leader in a highly specialized field

Dr. Jowitt's passion for older adults and correctional health sets her apart as a leader in a highly specialized field. As a Certified Correctional Health Professional, she serves at the Carswell Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, where she also consults on dementia in the aging prison population. Her expertise has made her a national voice in this area, contributing to webinars and media outreach to raise awareness of the unique healthcare challenges faced by incarcerated older adults.

Beyond her clinical and academic roles, Dr. Jowitt is deeply committed to service. She volunteers with the Tarrant County Food Bank, addressing social determinants of health that can affect long-term outcomes and even lead to incarceration. Her service also includes maintaining a rural cemetery, reflecting her respect and compassion for all individuals, living and deceased.

Dr. Jowitt also consistently volunteers her nursing expertise in community settings. She supports first-aid efforts at the Cowtown Marathon while mentoring students, participates in Remote Area Medical events in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and serves as an active Red Cross volunteer.

Her work highlights the far-reaching impact of Nurse Practitioners—not only in clinical care but also in education, advocacy, and community service. Through her dedication, Dr. Jowitt continues to improve care for underserved populations and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals.



Advocating for the Vulnerable: Dr. Jason Spees' Fight Against Human Trafficking



Nurse Practitioners are uniquely positioned to identify, support, and advocate for individuals facing some of the most complex and hidden health challenges. Dr. Jason Spees exemplifies this role through his dedicated work addressing human trafficking and its effects on individuals and communities.

An alumnus of The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, Dr. Spees has built a career that bridges clinical practice, education, and advocacy. As a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner, licensed acupuncturist, and PhD-prepared nurse, he brings a multidisciplinary approach to care and a deep commitment to addressing trauma and exploitation.

Dr. Spees has served as a clinical instructor at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, helping prepare future nurses to recognize and respond to signs of human trafficking. His influence extends well beyond the classroom. He currently serves as Chair of the Alliance for Children and Secretary of HEAL Trafficking, where he contributes to national efforts to combat human exploitation through education, policy, and healthcare integration.

A recognized leader at the local, state, and national levels, Dr. Spees has authored multiple human trafficking curricula and serves as a clinical editor and educator in this critical area. His doctoral research further strengthens his impact—through qualitative interviews with survivors, he has worked to better understand trafficking victims' lived experiences and the path toward recovery.

Beyond his academic and leadership roles, Dr. Spees provides direct care to those in need. He offers free medical services to victims of human trafficking at Red Oak Hope in Austin, ensuring access to compassionate, trauma-informed care. He has also presented nationally to healthcare providers and developed a podcast that explores the intersection of healthcare and human trafficking, raising awareness and equipping clinicians with tools to respond.

Through advocacy, education, and direct patient care, he continues to lead efforts to combat violence, human exploitation, and abuse of power—making a meaningful difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

Dr. Spees' work highlights the powerful role Nurse Practitioners play in addressing complex social and health issues. Through advocacy, education, and direct patient care, he continues to lead efforts to combat violence, human exploitation, and abuse of power—making a meaningful difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.



Expanding Access to Care: Dr. Katy Vogelaar's Impact on Community Health



Nurse Practitioners play a critical role in expanding access to care, particularly for individuals and families who might otherwise go without needed services. Dr. Katy Vogelaar exemplifies this commitment through her work in education, clinical practice, and community outreach.

A board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor University's Louise Herrington School of Nursing, Dr. Vogelaar is a proud two-time Baylor alumna. She is deeply dedicated to preparing future nurses and nurse practitioners to deliver high-quality care across diverse healthcare settings.

Dr. Vogelaar's professional and scholarly focus centers on improving healthcare access for the uninsured and underinsured. As an educator and leader, she has served on multiple Baylor nursing committees and chaired the Louise Herrington School of Nursing Faculty Organization, contributing to the advancement of nursing education and academic excellence.

Her impact is especially evident in the Waco community, where she helped establish Highland Urgent Care, a free clinic designed to serve individuals without access to affordable healthcare.

Her impact is especially evident in the Waco community, where she helped establish Highland Urgent Care, a free clinic designed to serve individuals without access to affordable healthcare. What began as a vision has grown into a collaborative effort involving more than forty medical volunteers, providing care to hundreds of families who might otherwise delay or forgo treatment due to financial barriers.

Through strong partnerships with local church leaders and community members, Dr. Vogelaar has helped create a sustainable model of care rooted in service and accessibility. She continues to volunteer consistently at the clinic, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to meeting the community's needs.

In addition to her clinical and academic roles, Dr. Vogelaar contributes to family well-being in another meaningful way—by serving on her church's marriage ministry leadership team. Through this work, she helps families build stronger relationships, improve communication, and enhance overall emotional resilience.

Dr. Vogelaar's work highlights the far-reaching impact of Nurse Practitioners—not only in providing care but also in strengthening communities through leadership, service, and education. Her dedication continues to improve access, foster connections, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those she serves.

Congratulations to our Texas NP Members Selected as AANP Fellows for 2026!



Wanda Hilliard

DNP, MBA, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Austin, TX



Nicole Kroll

PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FNP-BC,
PMHNP-BC
College Station, TX



Robert Metzger

DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC
Colleyville, TX



Jacqueline Michael

PhD, APRN, WHNP-BC,
PMHNP-BC
Garland, TX



Andrya Rivera-Burciaga

DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN
San Juan, TX



Matthew Sorenson

PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN
Bryan, TX



Grace Sun

DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Tyler, TX



Rebecca Tsusaki

Ph.D, APRN-CNP, WHNP-BC
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Exclusive Affinity Program for Texas Nurse Practitioners

Reducing falls in hospitalized patients

Patient falls remain a serious problem in healthcare. ECRI lists “ongoing challenges with preventing falls” as one of its top 10 patient safety concerns for 2024. Consistent with previous years, falls were the most common sentinel events reported to The Joint Commission in 2024, accounting for nearly half (49%) of reports. In all, 49% of falls resulted in severe harm to the patient, 21% in moderate harm, and 21% in death. Most reports to The Joint Commission are voluntary, so the incidence is likely higher.

Falls can be costly. One economic analysis from Dykes, Curtin-Bowen, and colleagues showed that non-injurious and injurious falls were associated with cost increases of \$35,365 and \$36,776, respectively.

More important than cost, however, is the potential harm to patients and nurses. In the CNA/NSO *Nurse Professional Liability Claim Report: 5th Edition* report, many of the closed claims in the patients’ rights/abuse/professional conduct category involved falls that occurred because the nurse failed to follow the organization’s fall-prevention policies and procedures. This failure violates the patient’s right to a safe environment. In one case, a patient for whom proper fall precautions were not taken died from an intracranial hemorrhage suffered after a fall. The initial nursing assessment listed the patient as low fall risk, even though the patient met many of the organization’s high-risk criteria. Of these fall-related closed claims, 38.6% resulted in death.

Fortunately, nurses can take several steps to reduce fall risk, starting with understanding contributing factors.

Fall Factors

Based on an analysis of several articles, Huntington and Kuhn identified four reasons why patients file Hospitalized patients are at a higher risk for falls compared with those in ambulatory settings. The CNA/NSO report notes that the locations with the highest frequency of falls include hospital-inpatient medical and surgical services, patients’ home, and aging services.

ECRI and Schoberer and colleagues note several risk factors to consider, including a history of a fall in the past 6 months, age older than 70 years, male gender, certain disease states (e.g., dementia, COPD, atrial fibrillation), disease-related changes (e.g., movement restriction,

vertigo, sleep disorder, cognitive impairment), and some medications (e.g., sedatives, antipsychotics). The Joint Commission notes that most sentinel event falls occur when the patient is ambulating, followed by falling from bed and toileting.

ECRI and The Joint Commission list items that can contribute to falls with injury, including communication (e.g., inadequate staff-to-staff communication during handoffs or transitions of care, lack of shared understanding of the plan of care) and staff performance (e.g., not following preventive procedures).

Awareness of contributing factors isn’t enough to protect patients from falls. It takes a team effort to prevent falls and to reduce the degree of injury should a fall occur.

Preventing falls: Organizations

Any fall prevention effort requires a significant organizational investment of time and money to support clinicians in their work. ECRI lists several strategies organizations can take to help reduce falls, including the following:

- Have an executive sponsor who is accountable for fall prevention for the organization. Accountability should include appropriate staffing and adoption of fall prevention technology as appropriate.
- Promote a just culture environment when reviewing safety events related to patient falls.
- Analyze culture of safety surveys to identify ways to improve communication and teamwork related to falls.
- Provide education on prevention and encourage staff to speak up and report risks that may lead to falls.
- Use tiered safety huddles to address concerns that may put patients at higher risk of falling. (Tiered huddles are multiple daily meetings that occur across multiple levels or tiers of leadership. Meetings are used to identify problems before they escalate. Because some leaders span adjacent tiers, communication is facilitated.)
- Create a multidisciplinary team to implement prevention programs that include risk assessment, data monitoring, and continuous improvement.

Organizations can promote a culture of safety, but each nurse has a role to play as well.

Preventing falls: nurses

Nurses can utilize several tools to prevent patient falls.

Education. In a systematic review and meta-analysis, Morris and colleagues note that educating both patients and clinicians reduces hospital fall rates. Such education can raise awareness of risk factors and strategies for prevention.

Engagement. In addition to educating patients and families, involving them in developing a prevention plan is likely to yield greater success than one unilaterally developed by the nurse. Any information provided for patients and families should be in their preferred language, at an appropriate reading level, and in a format they can absorb. For instance, printed material should be of sufficient font size for easy reading.

Communication. As noted earlier, inadequate communication during handoffs or transitions of care can result in falls. Clear signage, checklists, and verifying receipt of information can be used to promote understanding. In addition, the fall prevention plan should be communicated to all members of the healthcare team, not just nurses. Certified nursing assistants, transport staff, and other clinicians such as therapists all have a role to play in prevention. Both written and verbal communication are essential.

Guidelines. Following prevention guidelines developed by the organization not only helps patients but also reduces the nurse's risk of legal action should a patient incur an injury after a fall.

The guidelines will note that the prevention plan should be documented in the patient's electronic health record.

It's best to use multiple interventions tailored to individual patients as part of the overall prevention plan.

Preventing plan steps

Steps typically include assessing, creating, communicating, and evaluating.

Assessing. The Fall TIPS (Tailoring Interventions for Patient Safety) toolkit is a resource for reducing falls. It notes that areas to assess include fall history, medication side effects, walking aid, presence of an IV, unsteady gait, and whether the patient may forget or choose not to call for help.

Possible assessment tools include Morse Fall Scale, Schmid Fall Risk Assessment Tool, and STRATIFY Fall Risk Assessment Tool.

Fall TIPS (Tailoring Interventions for Patient Safety)

Toolkit is an example of an effective fall prevention resource. It emphasizes the need to incorporate the patient into the assessment as well as plan creation and implementation. The toolkit, which distills fall prevention into three steps, has reduced falls and saved significant money for multiple organizations.

1. Identify risk factors. This can be done by performing the Morse Fall Scale assessment.
2. Develop a prevention plan tailored to the patient-specific risk factors. Collaboration with patients and family members is an essential part of plan development. Document assessment results and plan in the electronic health record.
3. Consistently carry out the plan. This is accomplished via the Fall TIPS laminated poster, which is used to communicate the plan to other members of the care team, as well as the patient and family. The poster, which is available in multiple languages and updated daily, is color coded to match the findings of the assessment.

Sources: Falls TIPS. www.falltips.org

Creating. When creating the prevention plan, match interventions to assessment results. For example, if the Morris Fall Scale assessment reveals that gait is an area of risk, assist the patient out of bed and consider a physical therapy consult. Another example is the use of a toileting schedule for those with an IV or other equipment, urinary incontinence, or who may have medication side effects.

Communicating. In addition to communicating the plan to the patient, patient's family, and team and documenting it in the electronic health record, it's also important to communicate the patient's and family's response to the plan during transitions such as shift handoff.

Evaluating. In addition to sharing patient responses to the plan throughout the day, the plan should be fully evaluated daily and revised as needed. Again, patients and families should be included in the evaluation and revision process. If a patient falls, nurses should take steps to reduce injury and immediately adjust the prevention plan.

What the Nurse Should Do If a Patient Falls

Despite best efforts, patients may still fall. When that happens, the nurse should:

- Assess the patient for injury before moving. Assessment parameters include vital signs, cognition, any signs of injury (such as cuts), and whether the patient is experiencing pain;
- After the patient has been evaluated and no injury is found, carefully return the patient to the bed and use lifting devices as needed;
- Document what happened in the patient's electronic health record. Include who was informed how the fall occurred, assessment results, and follow-up interventions (e.g., radiographs). Note any prevention interventions that were in place when the fall occurred. Thorough documentation of the situation can help protect the nurse if a legal case arises. For example, the documentation can confirm that no injuries were found on examination, and the patient denied any pain;
- File a report according to organizational guidelines. The report will typically have spaces for details similar to what is in the patient's electronic health record, such as the location of the incident. In addition, any relevant patient history (such as cognitive impairment) should be noted. Keep the information objective and fact-based. The report should not be used to cast blame, but rather to identify potential areas for quality improvement; and
- Consider what could have been done to prevent the fall. Incidences such as these can prompt new insights that can protect current and future patients.

Call to action

Fall prevention has been taught in nursing schools and written and spoken about for decades yet falls remain a significant adverse event experienced by patients. Fortunately, preventing falls can be accomplished with the proper support of organizations and clinicians. This prevention will protect patients and reduce the potential for legal action against nurses whose patients are injured as a result of a fall. It takes everyone's commitment (organizations, clinicians, patients, and families) to gain optimal outcomes.

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Nurses Service Organization Launches Professional Liability Insurance for Certified Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives

Nurses Service Organization (NSO), one of the nation's largest providers of individual professional liability insurance for nurses, and their carrier partner, **CNA**, today have launched a malpractice insurance offering for Certified Midwives (CMs) and Certified Nurse Midwives

(CNMs). The new coverage is designed to help safeguard midwives' licenses, assets and livelihoods as they navigate the complex clinical and professional risks associated with their practice.

"Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives face unique professional exposures given the nature of the care they provide," said David Griffiths, Aon Affinity Healthcare President. "This offering reflects NSO's long-standing commitment to offering coverage designed for the real-world risks nurses face and rounds out our offerings in the Advanced Practice Provider space."

The NSO midwife professional liability policy offers coverage for Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives for prenatal, postnatal and gynecological services in hospital or clinical environments, as well as labor and delivery services in hospital settings. NSO's policy is designed to be a standalone policy solution or complement employer-provided insurance, which may not fully protect individual practitioners or include license defense coverage.

For more information about NSO's malpractice insurance for Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives, visit: nso.com/malpractice-insurance/individuals/midwife.



"I love the professional camaraderie that TNP provides!"

**Carmen Salone, MPH, MSN, APRN,
AGPCNP-C
Member Since 2021**





Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation 2025 Annual Report



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2025 TNPf President

On behalf of the Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation, thank you for standing with us throughout 2025. Choosing to give is a meaningful decision, and I am deeply grateful to TNP Members who have continued their commitment to our mission.

Your support directly strengthens Nurse Practitioners across Texas by expanding access to education, advancing research, and providing critical assistance when it is needed most. Because of your generosity, 2025 was a year of meaningful growth and lasting impact for the Foundation.

Through two silent auctions, two Walk and Talk events, and our continued partnership with Kendra Scott, LLC, we were proud to:

- Award seven \$1,500 scholarships to aspiring Nurse Practitioners
- Sponsor neurology educational sessions through the Kim Oas Memorial Fund
- Support TNP's efforts to raise awareness of the vital role Nurse Practitioners play in improving healthcare access across Texas
- Continue our partnership with the T.L.L. Temple Foundation to expand access to women's and maternal health services

In addition, our *Waiting for Care* campaign brought renewed attention to the barriers women face in accessing timely healthcare and underscored how outcomes improve when Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are part of the solution—particularly during this year's legislative session.

The Foundation also strengthened its governance in 2025 by welcoming an additional board member and modernizing our bylaws to align with nonprofit best practices. As I conclude my term as President, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the Foundation in this role and look forward to continuing my work as a member of the Board. I am confident that the Foundation is in excellent hands under the leadership of incoming President Michael Doyal.

None of this work would be possible without the ongoing support of individuals like you. As we look ahead, I encourage you to remain engaged with your Foundation - The Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation, a 501(c) non-profit. It is here for all members of Texas Nurse Practitioners!

Thank you for your continued trust and generosity. It has been an honor to serve.

With heartfelt gratitude,



About/Our Purpose

Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation (TNPf) is dedicated to charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. TNPf is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. TNPf is the only charitable foundation in Texas that is 100% focused on programs and initiatives that support and benefit current and future nurse practitioners and the patients they serve throughout our state.

Contributions to TNPf are immediately put to work to help Texas NPs and their communities!

TNPf assists future and current nurse practitioners in Texas by:

- Providing financial resources that advance the profession, including scholarships for NP education or NPs pursuing an advanced nursing degree.
- Awarding grants to nurse practitioners and partner organizations for research relevant to advanced nursing professions.
- Awarding grants to community projects that promote and improve access to healthcare for Texans.
- Collaborating with organizations with similar missions and goals.
- Awarding funding to organizations that advance continuing education for the nurse practitioner profession.
- Promoting public awareness of the nurse practitioner role.
- Providing short-term, immediate financial assistance to eligible TNP members whose lives are impacted by an accident or natural disaster.



Initiatives and Impact

Awarded \$10,500 in Scholarships

The Foundation awarded six scholarships to Texas NP, DNP, and PhD nursing students, supporting the advancement of the nurse practitioner workforce across the state. In addition, through the Katie Russell Memorial Scholarship Fund, a \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to a student pursuing a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Supporting Nurse Practitioners During a Natural Disaster

In response to the Central Texas floods in July, the Foundation opened an emergency assistance application process to support nurse practitioners impacted by the disaster.

Supporting NP Education

Through the Kim Oas Memorial Fund, the Foundation supported Dr. Barbara Peavey's presentation, Neuroplasticity: Enhancing Clinical Outcomes for Brain-Based Disorders Through Case Studies, at TNP's 2025 Annual Conference, advancing continuing education opportunities for nurse practitioners.



\$10,000 Grant to Increase Public Awareness of Nurse Practitioners

The Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to Texas Nurse Practitioners to increase public awareness of the critical role nurse practitioners play in expanding access to healthcare. Grant funds supported the production of a video featuring community leaders discussing the impact of NPs in their communities, as well as continued storytelling efforts highlighting NP providers and the meaningful difference they make in patients' lives.

Received \$25,000 Grant from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation

In 2025, the Foundation received a \$25,000 grant from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation to launch the Waiting for Care campaign, an initiative focused on raising awareness about barriers to healthcare access for women in Texas. The campaign included a dedicated website, social media outreach, and a video emphasizing the essential role nurse practitioners play in delivering care. Campaign materials were shared with the Texas Legislature during the 89th Legislative Session.



Launched Employer Matching Gift Program

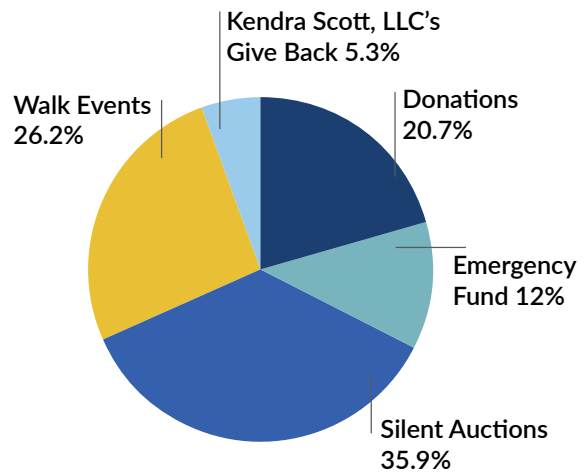
The Foundation launched a new employer matching gift program to maximize the impact of donor contributions. Through this program, eligible donations may be matched, doubling or even tripling support for the Foundation's mission by participating employers and institutions.

Financial Overview

Revenue – where did revenue come from Income

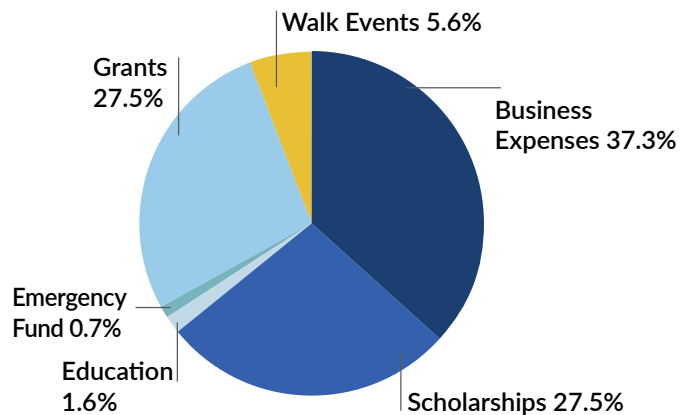
- Kendra Scott, LLC's Give Back Income: \$3,019 (5%)
- Walk Events: \$14,975 (26%)
- Silent Auctions: \$20,541 (36%)
- Emergency Fund: \$4,060 (12%)
- Donations: \$11,820 (21%)

Total Income: \$54,620



Expenses

- Walk Events: \$2,125
- Grants: \$10,500.00
- Emergency Fund: \$250
- Education: \$600
- Scholarships: \$10,500
- Business Expenses: \$14,265



Total: \$37,740

Total Assets in 2025: \$ 232,462.12

Events and Awards

TNPf 'Spirit of Texas' Giving Award

Hats off to our 2025 TNPf "Spirit of Texas" Giving Award recipient, the Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners!

Each year, TNPf awards a TNP Affiliate with a traveling trophy for exemplary support of the Foundation. We thank our dedicated Affiliates for their generous financial contributions, fun and creative auction items, and encouragement of their members to support TNPf. The Award is presented at TNP's Annual Conference.



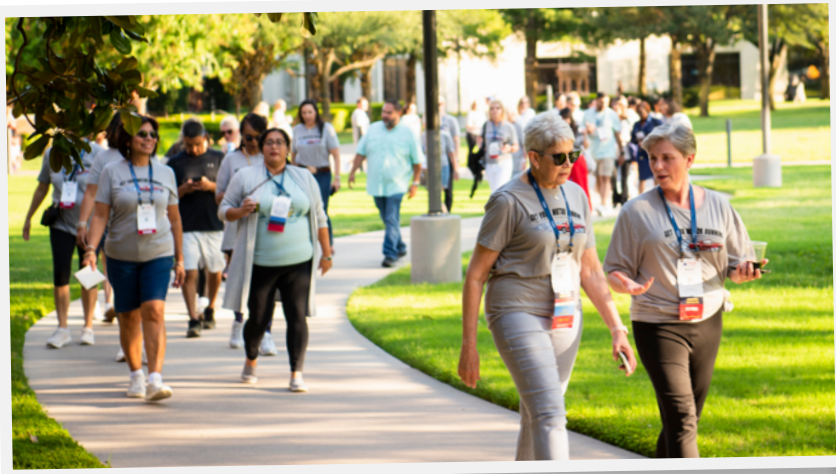
Golden Shoe Award

The North Texas Nurse Practitioners affiliate was awarded the "Golden Shoe Award" for their collective participation in the Walk events as the affiliate with the most participation for 2025.

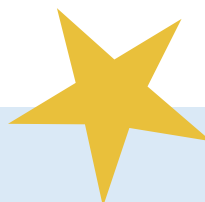
What could be better than a beautiful stroll with wonderful people who share your professional interests and passion? At each conference Walk & Talk event, TNPf recognizes the TNP Affiliate that puts its best foot forward by recruiting the most walk attendees.



In 2025, the Foundation organized two silent auctions: one at the pharmacology conference, featuring 42 items, and another at the annual conference, with 85 items available for bidding.



The Foundation organizes *Walk and Talk* events at TNP's Pharmacology and Annual Conference. In 2025, 50 attendees participated in the Pharmacology Conference, while 102 joined the Annual Conference.



Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors

\$5,000+

Paul and Sally Houdayer Foundation

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Kendra Scott, LLC

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Betty Keller
Jan Zdanuk Dodd

\$500 - \$999

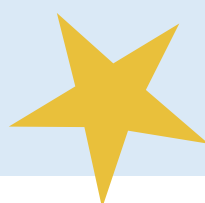
Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners

\$100 - \$499

Susan Calloway
Dale Fuller
Joyce & Julius Germano
Dr. Tracy Hicks
Houston Area Nurse Practitioners
Insight Mental Wellness
Minute Clinic
North Texas Nurse Practitioners
Dr. Erin Pérez
San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice
Viviane Teixeira
Texas Christian University
Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
Lynda Woolbert

Under \$100

Stephanie Atkinson
John Barrera
Diana Beckmann-Mendez
Tiffany Brown
Melissa Constancio
Justin Cullers
Cristi Day
Kelsey Ellison
Jill Fuhrmann
Maria Garcia
Betty Gonzales
Sr. Barbara Hyzak
Monica Ochoa
Lala Reyes
Rebecca Simmons-Rios
Tracey Smith
Jennifer Uzzell
Kimberly Zilske





Elizabeth Gigliotti
APRN, ACNP-BC

From Scholarship to Stewardship: One NP’s Journey of Giving Back

In 2008, one Texas nurse practitioner began a journey that would shape not only her career but also her lifelong commitment to professional advocacy and community. That year, Elizabeth Gigliotti, APRN, ACNP-BC, joined the Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP) and received a student scholarship from the Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation (TNPf) — an experience she describes as transformative.

At the time, life was full. Gigliotti was raising two young daughters, working part-time, and had returned to school within three years to pursue a post-master’s degree in Acute Care. Like many graduate students, she was balancing professional ambition with family responsibilities and the “usual” financial pressures that come with both. The budget was tight, and every expense required careful consideration.

Receiving the TNPf scholarship brought more than financial assistance — it brought relief. It gave Elizabeth a moment of reassurance during a demanding season of life. More importantly, it signaled that her professional community believed in her potential. Elizabeth recalls wondering how she could ever fully express her gratitude to the scholarship committee. What she could not have known then was that her answer would unfold over the next decade and beyond.

That scholarship marked the planting of deep professional roots. Through TNP, Elizabeth began building meaningful connections with colleagues and mentors — relationships that became essential building blocks of a long, fulfilling, and successful career. She immersed herself in the organization, attending conferences and events whenever possible, an enthusiasm that endures to this day. The networking, high-quality education, and essential practice updates proved invaluable, strengthening both Elizabeth’s clinical expertise and professional confidence.

Within a few years, her involvement expanded. She joined TNP task forces and committees, lending her voice and energy to initiatives supporting nurse practitioners across Texas. She became a regular

contributor to TNP’s Political Action Committee, recognizing that sustained advocacy requires sustained investment. In 2017, Gigliotti solidified her commitment by becoming a Legacy Member.

Today, her leadership continues to grow. She serves as a TNP Legislative Ambassador, advocating for policies that protect and advance the nurse practitioner role. Since 2023, she Gigliotti also served as an At-Large Board Member and Silent Auction Chair for TNPf. Her journey from scholarship recipient to organizational leader reflects the power of engagement and the profound ripple effect of giving back.

“TNP protects and serves my beloved profession,” Gigliotti says. **“TNP is the collective voice for all NPs in Texas — members and nonmembers alike.”**

Elizabeth’s story is a testament to the lasting impact of scholarship support. Financial assistance can ease immediate burdens, but connection to a professional community can shape an entire career. Scholarships open doors. Membership sustains growth. Involvement multiplies impact.

Elizabeth generously gives her time, resources, and leadership to TNP—but as she readily shares, she feels she receives far more in return. Professional support, lifelong friendships, advocacy victories, mentorship, and the satisfaction of strengthening the profession Gigliotti loves—these returns are immeasurable.

For Texas NP students and practicing NPs alike, Gigliotti’s journey offers encouragement and a call to action. Apply for scholarships. Attend conferences. Join committees. Invest in advocacy. Become a member. Get connected.

When nurse practitioners support one another, the entire profession thrives—and the next scholarship recipient may one day become its strongest champion.

Experience the ripple effect of giving back!

Your journey begins here! [Click here](#) to learn more and apply for a TNPf Scholarship! **Deadline is May 31!**

2026 Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted



The **Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation** is proud to support future nurse practitioners like you—and we're excited to announce that **7 scholarships** will be awarded this year.

Applications are due May 31

If you're currently enrolled in an NP program, this is your opportunity to receive financial support and strengthen your connection to the Texas Nurse Practitioners community.

Start preparing now to submit a strong application:

Some required documents may take time to gather, including:

- Official transcripts
- A letter from your program director confirming enrollment
- Letters of recommendation

Please also note:

- All applications must be submitted online (no mailed materials accepted)
- A convenient checklist is available on the website to guide you

Don't wait — getting organized early will help you meet the deadline with confidence.

[Click here](#) to review eligibility requirements, application details, and required documents to begin your application process.

We encourage you to take this next step toward your future as a nurse practitioner—we look forward to receiving your application!

Questions? Contact jill@texasnp.org.

A New Financial Assistance Opportunity Available!

Financial Assistance Available for TNP Conference Attendance

The Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation (TNPf) is offering a **CE Grant** to support TNP members experiencing financial hardship who would like to attend the TNP annual conference and earn continuing education (CE) hours.

This grant can help offset the **pre-conference fee, conference registration fee, and/or travel expenses**, allowing applicants to indicate which costs would be most helpful to cover. The goal is to reduce financial barriers so nurse practitioners can stay current in their practice, meet licensure requirements, and access high-quality education.

Who Should Apply?

If you are experiencing financial hardship and cost is a barrier to attending the TNP conference, this opportunity is designed to help you participate and take advantage of valuable continuing education and professional development.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a **current TNP member**
- Hold **licensure in good standing** with the Texas Board of Nursing
- Apply for the **TNP Foundation (TNPf) CE Grant**
- Be registered or plan to register for an eligible TNP conference
- **Demonstrate financial need**
- Agree to attend the conference if awarded the grant

Note: Members may receive only one TNPf CE Grant per calendar year.

Application & Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by TNPf leadership or a designated committee. Grants are **limited and awarded based on applicant interest, demonstrated financial need, professional impact, eligibility criteria, and available funding**.

Important Dates

- **Application Deadline:** July 1, 2026 (11:00 PM)
- **Applicants Notified:** By July 20, 2026

Apply Today

If financial hardship has made it difficult to attend the TNP conference, we encourage you to apply.

For questions, contact TNP staff at admin@texasnp.org.

[Click here to apply.](#)



Support the Texas NP Foundation Through Employer Matching Gifts

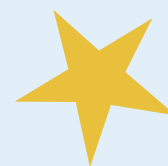
Many employers and institutions offer charitable matching gift programs that allow employees to double—or even triple—their donations to eligible nonprofit organizations.

Why Your Support Matters

Every contribution helps fund scholarships, professional development programs, and initiatives that support the growth and advancement of nurse practitioners across Texas. Matching gifts make your generosity go even further—expanding opportunities for NPs, students, and the communities they serve.

[Click here](#) to learn more, donate, and request the match!

For questions, contact connie@texasnp.org.



★ **Austin Advanced Practice Nurses**

AAPN awarded Spring 2026 Scholarships to Nicholas Corcoran and Alyssa Starkey.



Nicholas Corcoran, RN,
CCRN, DNP/ MSN Student,
UT Austin



Alyssa Starkey, RN,
DNP FNP Student,
UT Health Houston

★ **Wichita County Nurse Practitioners**

Texas NP advocacy all the way has been the focus of Wichita County Nurse Practitioners this Spring!



WCNP President, Rachel Reitan made a Legislative Ambassador visit to Texas Representative James Frank.



Promoting **Texas NP Advocacy at Full Throttle** is a family affair for the Wichita County Nurse Practitioners, as husband of a WCNP member is shown here promoting the 2026 TNP PAC Campaign's fundraiser flying around Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls. Way to promote the theme at full throttle, WCNP!



WCNP Vice President Lisa Sheriff and President Rachel Reitan attended TNP's Health Policy Summit at the Texas Capitol.

★ Cizik School of Nursing at UT Health Houston ★ West Texas A&M University



FNP Program Ranked No. 12 in Nation by USNWR , 1st in Texas

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner track at the Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston was ranked No. 1 in Texas and tied for No. 12 nationally in the 2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools, highlighting its academic excellence, faculty expertise, and impact on patient care. The program, which has transitioned to the DNP level to align with national standards, prepares students for primary care across the lifespan and offers pathways to specialized tracks, including emergency and EMS nurse practitioner roles. Supported by strong research funding and collaborative opportunities within the Texas Medical Center, the school continues to advance nursing education, with its DNP and MSN programs also earning national rankings, and its research enterprise is ranked No. 1 in Texas among NIH-funded nursing schools.

[Click here](#) for the full story.



Leading the Future of Rural Care: WTAMU Introduces First DNP Program in the Texas Panhandle

Addressing the critical need for healthcare, West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) announces the launch of the first Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in the Texas Panhandle, commencing in Fall, 2026. This pioneering program prepares expert nurses for advanced nursing practice for future leaders in management, practice, and academic roles. Blending hands-on clinical experiences with coursework, the curriculum ensures graduates are ready to lead in health care in all communities. The DNP program at WTAMU is a hybrid, post-master's program designed to focus on rural healthcare in clinical practice or leadership/administration.

West Texas A&M University is a public university located in Canyon, Texas, and is part of the Texas A&M University System. Established in 1910, the 342-acre residential campus located in the heart of the Texas Panhandle serves over 9,000 students and features rigorous academic programs and a commitment to fostering intellectual growth.

★ The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing

Dr. Stephanie Key Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor



Stephanie Key, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS, FAANP

Dr. Stephanie Key serves as Director of the Post-Master's Option III DNP Program and has held prior leadership roles in pediatric nurse practitioner education, with a teaching focus on leadership, advanced practice competencies, and improving health outcomes. She has advanced pediatric mental and behavioral health education by integrating psychiatric content into curricula and specializes clinically in managing children with ADHD and related conditions, with scholarly work on mindfulness interventions for youth. A nationally recognized leader, she is active in organizations such as the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Texas Nurse Practitioners, and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, contributing significantly to teaching, mentorship, and the advancement of the nursing profession.

[Click here for the full story.](#)



Get the most out of your TNP membership!

- **12 FREE CEs annually** – Available online & in our quarterly magazine
- **Direct support from a Practice Consultant** – Get expert answers to scope of practice questions
- **Deep member discounts** – Save big on conferences, guidelines, & resources
- **Access to cost-saving health, dental, and vision insurance** through our exclusive affinity program
- **Timely practice updates** – Stay informed on key regulatory & policy changes
- **Members-only communities** – Connect with peers for advice & support
- **Career resources** – Advance your professional journey



**Member freebies
and savings on CEs,
conferences, and resources
\$1,000+ value!**

**You'll find it
all on [texasnp.org](https://www.texasnp.org)**