TEXAS NURSE PRACTITIONER

FALL ISSUE
2026

NEWS, POLICY & PRACTICE FOR TEXAS NPS



NATIONAL NP WEEK NOVEMBER 8-14

Inside: Your Participation Guide

2026 ANNUAL AWARDS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

NPS SHARE THEIR IMPACT STORIES

AFFILIATES IN ACTION

Fall 2026 Issue

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Texas Nurse Practitioner magazine is published by TNP. For editorial or advertising inquiries, please contact **Connie@texasnp.org.**



Help celebrate National Nurse Practitioner Week November 8-14, 2026

See our "how to" guide on page 33 for easy ways you can participate, including:

- Social media posts
- Photo contest (an NP favorite!)
- Employer communications
- Local proclamations
- Letter to the editor

#NPWeek

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With gratitude and excitement,

Tracy Hicks, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP, FIAAN, FAANP, FAAN
President,
Texas Nurse Practitioners

Lose Yourself in the Mission.
Celebrate the Profession.
Lead the Future.

IF I CAN, YOU CAN,
Together WE CAN!

Lose Yourself in the Mission: Celebrating Our Legacy, Leading Our Future

A Message from TNP's President

As we celebrate National Nurse Practitioner Week and welcome the inaugural issue of Texas Nurse Practitioner magazine, I am reminded of the extraordinary impact of nurse practitioners across our great state. From rural communities to urban healthcare systems, classrooms to boardrooms, and clinical practice to legislative chambers, Texas NPs are not simply participating in healthcare transformation; we are helping lead it.

At our Annual Conference, I asked you to "Lose Yourself in the Mission." This was more than a conference message; it was a call to action. I challenged each of us to look beyond individual accomplishments, embrace our collective purpose, and remain steadfast in advancing accessible, equitable, and high-quality healthcare. When we lose ourselves in the mission, we recognize that our greatest impact is achieved not individually, but collectively.

In her book Taking Care: The Story of Nursing and Its Power to Change Our World, Sarah DiGregorio (2023) explores the historical and social constructs that have shaped nursing's identity, including longstanding assumptions about hierarchy and subordination. Understanding our history is essential, but we must not allow historical constructs to define our future.

For decades, nursing has earned the public's trust. Gallup's most recent findings once again recognize nurses as the nation's most trusted profession, with 75% of Americans rating our honesty and ethical standards as high or very high (Brenan, 2026). It is time we translate that trust into confident, visible, and influential leadership.

Collaboration is fundamental to exceptional healthcare and should be an expectation of every healthcare professional. However, collaboration does not require mandated supervision or professional subordination. Nurse practitioners bring advanced education, clinical expertise, accountability, and a distinct perspective to healthcare. We can respect the contributions of every discipline while confidently advocating for the autonomy to practice to the full extent of our education and training.

As we celebrate our profession, let us also recognize our responsibility to mentor future leaders, challenge outdated assumptions, advocate for meaningful change, and lead with emotional intelligence, courage, and integrity.

Our history informs us, but it does not have to limit us. Our expertise equips us, our patients inspire us, and our collective voice empowers us.

As your President, I am honored to stand alongside Texas NPs who demonstrate daily what it means to lead with purpose. Together, we can create a future in which professional respect is mutual, collaboration is intentional, and every Texan has access to the healthcare they deserve.

References

Brenan, M. (2026, January 12). Nurses continue to lead in honesty and ethics ratings. Gallup. https://news.gallup.com/poll/700736/nurses-continue-lead-honesty-ethics-ratings.aspx

DiGregorio, S. (2023). Taking care: The story of nursing and its power to change our world. Harper.

and the WINNERS are....

Meet TNP's 2026 Honorees

At this year's Annual Conference at Moody Gardens, TNP recognized outstanding NPs from across Texas.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Five Texas NPs. Five communities changed. TNP's Community Impact Award honors nurse practitioners whose service and leadership are making a real difference in the lives of Texans across the state.



Community Impact Awardee: Dr. Allison Huffman

Dr. Allison Huffman, a family nurse practitioner with more than 25 years of experience, has dedicated her career to caring for underserved populations.

For the past 11 years, she has practiced at the Community Health Clinic in McKinney, providing care to uninsured and low-income patients. Fluent in Spanish, she offers culturally responsive, personalized care to a patient population that is more than 60 percent Spanish-speaking.

Her service also reaches communities around the world. She has participated in medical missions in Central America and Kenya and currently serves as Director of Health for Beyond the Light Project. In this role, she helped lead research on home ventilation to reduce exposure to smoke from wood-burning fires and supported solar energy installations in more than 300 homes and 30 schools.

Through teaching, precepting, global education, and service-learning experiences, Dr. Huffman also prepares future nurse practitioners to carry forward her commitment to compassionate care and community service.



Community Impact Awardee: Dr. Shibi Kunjumon

Dr. Shibi Kunjumon, an orthopaedic nurse practitioner and bone health specialist, has expanded osteoporosis awareness, screening, and fracture prevention across Southeast Texas.

With more than 20 years of service at UTMB and over a decade focused on osteoporosis and spine care, she helps patients at risk for future fractures access evaluation, treatment, and prevention services. As a Fracture Liaison Practitioner, she often begins this work in the emergency setting, connecting patients to ongoing care.

Her outreach spans Galveston, Harris, Brazoria, Liberty, and Colorado Counties. Through education in clinics, nursing homes, churches, and community organizations, she helps patients, families, and caregivers understand screening, lifestyle changes, and treatment options. Over the past 10 years, her efforts have helped enroll more than 5,250 patients in bone health programs, with nearly 2,900 actively receiving osteoporosis care.

Dr. Kunjumon also advances research and multidisciplinary education through collaboration with NASA researchers and participation in Bone Health ECHO. Her leadership helped UTMB earn national recognition through the American Orthopaedic Association's Own the Bone program.

Community Impact Awardee: Gilda E. Martinez

Gilda E. Martinez, a family nurse practitioner and Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, makes a meaningful impact through clinical care, education, and advocacy.

She cares for patients with complex cardiovascular conditions, including aortic disease, advanced heart failure, cardiac transplantation, and mechanical circulatory support. Her commitment to patient education and health equity includes developing culturally responsive, Spanish-language resources that help patients and families understand their conditions and participate in care decisions.

Through regional and national presentations, Ms. Martinez also helps healthcare professionals recognize risk factors, support early intervention, and improve care for patients with complex conditions. Her community service includes participation in health events and contributions to Spanish translations of mental health resources for individuals living with aortic disease.

Her work strengthens access to information and care while empowering patients, families, and fellow healthcare professionals.





Community Impact Awardee: Dr. Vishnu Maya Upadhyay

Dr. Vishnu Maya Upadhyay brings more than two decades of experience and certification in family, women's health, and psychiatric-mental health to her work expanding access to care across North Texas.

As Founder and CEO of Maya Healthcare Clinic and Behavioral Health, she provides affordable, culturally responsive care to underserved populations. Through free health camps and mobile care initiatives, she helps deliver preventive screenings, mental health evaluations, cancer education, CPR training, and chronic disease management to immigrants, uninsured families, seniors, and low-income communities.

Her mental health advocacy emphasizes education, early screening, and community-based intervention to reduce stigma and build trust. These efforts have reached thousands of individuals facing barriers to care.

Dr. Upadhyay also mentors future clinicians and helps fellow nurse practitioners establish and lead independent practices. Her work combines clinical expertise, entrepreneurship, and service to strengthen communities and expand opportunities within the NP profession.

Community Impact Awardee: Dr. Tracy R. Wilson

Dr. Tracy R. Wilson is a nurse practitioner, bioethicist, educator, author, medical affairs leader, and health policy advocate with more than 24 years of healthcare experience.

Her work translates evidence into practical, patient-centered solutions, particularly for individuals and families facing barriers to care. Through education, advocacy, and systems improvement, she addresses health literacy, timely recognition of serious conditions, care navigation, and access to resources.

As founding Chair of the AANP Industry and Executive Community, Dr. Wilson has helped connect clinical expertise, innovation, and patient advocacy. She also mentors nurses and nurse practitioners, creating leadership pathways and expanding career opportunities across healthcare and the life sciences industry.

Her contributions include helping develop the 2025 American Nurses Association Code of Ethics and advancing health equity and legislative advocacy at the state and national levels. Her leadership strengthens the NP profession while keeping patients and communities at the center of her work.



VISIONARY AWARD

Leadership takes vision. TNP's Visionary Award celebrates the programs, projects and research that show what NPs can do as healthcare leaders. This year's recipient is bringing care to rural and underserved communities across Texas.

Visionary Awardee: Dr. Nicole Peters Kroll



Dr. Kroll directs two NP-led mobile health clinics and supports academic-practice partnership clinics that collectively serve 43 rural communities and more than 5,000 individuals. Services include primary care, psychiatric and behavioral healthcare, cancer screenings, immunizations, and chronic disease management.

Her model brings care into 11 rural school districts and extends services through telehealth. Her leadership also helped establish Texas's first mobile, CMS-accredited Rural Health Clinic and integrate real-time telehealth consultations with licensed psychologists into primary care visits.

Beyond patient care, Dr. Kroll prepares future nurse practitioners to serve underserved communities and has introduced more than 2,000 K–12 students to healthcare careers. With more than $16 million in external funding secured, she has turned innovative ideas into sustainable solutions for rural healthcare.

RISING STAR AWARD

New to practice. Already leading. The TNP Rising Star Award celebrates NPs who are setting the bar within their first three years of practice.



Rising Star Awardee: Dr. Jeffrey M. Howard

A family nurse practitioner practicing in interventional pain management in Cedar Park, Dr. Howard cares for patients with complex acute, chronic, neuropathic, and cancer-related pain. He earned his DNP in 2025 and became certified in pain management within his first year of practice. He also founded MyVirtualNP, a virtual primary care practice expanding access to preventive and metabolic health services.

Dr. Howard precepts NP students, providing instruction in pain medicine, diagnostic imaging, opioid stewardship, and clinical decision-making. As a former TNP Legislative Ambassador and current Vice President of Austin Advanced Practice Nurses, he supports NP involvement in health policy and advocacy.

His contributions also include conference presentations, publications, a graduate-level textbook contribution, and work on a policy advocacy toolkit for Texas NPs.

NP EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Great NPs start with great teachers. TNP's NP Educator of the Year Award honors an educator whose passion, mentorship and expertise are shaping the next generation of nurse practitioners and strengthening the future of healthcare in Texas.



NP Educator of the Year Awardee: Dr. Kimberly Posey

Dr. Kimberly Posey received the 2026 TNP NP Educator of the Year Award for her dedication to preparing nurse practitioners and nursing leaders through innovative education and clinical mentorship.

With more than 25 years of clinical and academic experience, Dr. Posey serves as a Professor of Professional Practice at Texas Christian University's Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences. She coordinates the Executive Nurse Leadership and Practice DNP and MSN Nurse Educator programs. Since 2018, he has provided more than 1,000 clinical precepting hours while serving as a full-time educator. She has also led virtual interprofessional education and telehealth learning models that have prepared more than 500 students for collaborative practice.

Her national contributions include work on NP competencies, distance education standards, and faculty development. A Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing, she currently serves as President of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR

Learning by doing. TNP's Preceptor of the Year Award honors an NP who opens their practice to students, sharing the knowledge, confidence, and hands-on guidance that turn learners into skilled nurse practitioners.



Preceptor of the Year Awardee: Dr. Mady Stovall

Dr. Mady Stovall received the 2026 TNP Preceptor of the Year Award for her dedication to clinical education and mentorship.

Since 2004, Dr. Stovall has been a nurse practitioner and is dual-certified in adult and psychiatric-mental health practice. She serves as Director of Advanced Practice Providers at UT Health San Antonio, cares for patients with serious mental illness through the Transitional Care Clinic, and serves as the psychiatric consult liaison at the UT Health Multispecialty Research Hospital.

Over the past year, she supervised NP students for more than 1,000 clinical training hours. Students describe her as an intentional educator who sets clear expectations, explains clinical reasoning, welcomes questions, and gradually increases responsibility as their skills and confidence grow.

Her approach helps future NPs develop the clinical judgment, professionalism, and independence needed to transition successfully into advanced practice.

TNP OF THE YEAR

Excellence on every front. TNP's Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award recognizes an NP whose impact spans the full scope of the profession, setting the standard for what nurse practitioners can achieve in Texas and beyond.

TNP of the Year Awardee: Dr. Halli Carr



Dr. Halli Carr received the 2026 TNP of the Year Award for her clinical excellence, leadership, education, advocacy, and service.

An acute care nurse practitioner with more than 19 years of advanced practice experience, Dr. Carr helped develop a comprehensive cardiovascular program at a Baylor Scott & White Health community hospital. Her work included establishing cardiogenic shock and pulmonary embolism response programs, strengthening partnerships with tertiary care centers, and expanding access to specialized cardiovascular services closer to patients' homes.

As a Clinical Associate Professor and DNP–AGACNP program director at Baylor University, she mentors students, supports faculty, and prepares future nurse practitioners. She also serves as a TNP Legislative Ambassador and a representative to the American Nurses Association Membership Assembly.

Through international medical missions, disaster relief, and volunteer service in underserved communities, Dr. Carr extends her commitment to compassionate care and health equity. Her contributions strengthen healthcare systems and inspire students and colleagues.

TNP PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Leading with purpose. The TNP President's Award honors an individual whose work embodies the mission and spirit of the nurse practitioner profession.



TNP President's Awardee: Dr. Thornell Lewis

LCDR Thornell Lewis, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC, received the 2026 TNP President's Award in recognition of her national service, leadership, and commitment to public health and healthcare equity.

Through her work with the United States Public Health Service and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Dr. Lewis has helped strengthen nursing home quality, emergency preparedness, patient safety, and healthcare delivery across Texas and beyond. Her service on the USPHS Advanced Practice Nurse Readiness Committee has also advanced disaster preparedness and clinical leadership among advanced practice nurses.

Beyond her federal service, Dr. Lewis is dedicated to mentorship, professional development, and community service. Her contributions reflect the compassion, integrity, and commitment to excellence that strengthen the nurse practitioner profession.

TNP'S ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

Going the extra mile. The TNP Above and Beyond Award honors an individual whose dedication to the NP profession exceeds expectations and strengthens the NP community.

Above and Beyond Awardee: Dr. Tracey Smith

Dr. Tracey Smith received the 2026 TNP Above and Beyond Award for her dedicated service to Texas Nurse Practitioners and her commitment to student engagement, mentorship, and professional development.

Dr. Smith helped coordinate and encourage the attendance of more than 40 students at the TNP Health Policy Summit, giving future nurse practitioners an opportunity to engage in health policy and advocacy. By connecting students with professional involvement early in their careers, she helps build a foundation for continued participation and future leadership within TNP.

Her dedication to empowering students and preparing the next generation of NP leaders exemplifies the spirit of service behind this award.





Best Poster Awardee: Kristin Corkins

Kristin Corkins, MS, APRN, FNP-BC, EdD Candidate, Education Leadership & Organization (ELO), was awarded the Best Poster Award at TNP's Annual Conference for her presentation on "Virtual Escape Rooms: Evidence-Based Enhancement of Clinical Documentation Competency in Family Nurse Practitioner Students."

AFFILIATE ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Stronger together. This award honors an affiliate organization whose outstanding service, active participation and steadfast support help advance Texas Nurse Practitioners and the profession statewide.



This year, we presented the Affiliate Engagement Award to Austin Advanced Practice Nurses.

Austin APN consistently demonstrates its commitment to TNP by being available when needed, participating in TNP-sponsored meetings and events, and regularly providing affiliate updates that we can share with members across the state.

Their responsiveness, involvement, and willingness to support TNP exemplify what it means to be an engaged affiliate partner. To the members of Austin Advanced Practice Nurses, thank you for your continued dedication and partnership with TNP.

AFFILIATE FUNDRAISING AWARD

Fueling the Mission: This award recognizes an affiliate organization for its outstanding financial support of Texas Nurse Practitioners.

This year's Affiliate Fundraising Award was presented to: Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses

We are grateful for Coastal Bend's generous contributions and continued commitment to supporting TNP's work and advocacy efforts. To the members of Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses, thank you for your generosity and ongoing partnership with Texas Nurse Practitioners.



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE: STORIES FROM TEXAS NPS

We asked our NP members to share their real stories from the front lines and the impact they see in their work every day. Here, in their own words, is what it means to be a nurse practitioner in Texas.



LISTENING LEADS TO ANSWERS

Tammi Short, RN, FNP-C
Longview, TX
Practice Setting: NP Practice Owner

As a dermatology nurse practitioner, I'm reminded that listening can change a patient's life. During an annual skin exam, a patient I had cared for over five years asked about painful ulcers she had endured for more than a decade. She hadn't mentioned them before because she didn't realize dermatology could help.

The ulcers made sitting difficult, and she had been told nothing could be done. Given their severity and persistence, I performed a biopsy, which revealed bullous pemphigoid—a chronic skin condition with treatment options.

She now receives biologic infusions in our office, and her ulcers have nearly healed. She tells me she feels better, more confident, and heard.

I'm grateful she trusted me with her concerns. This experience reminds me why I do this work: to advocate for patients, look deeper, and help them find answers and a path toward healing when they've lived with uncertainty for years.



LOOKING BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

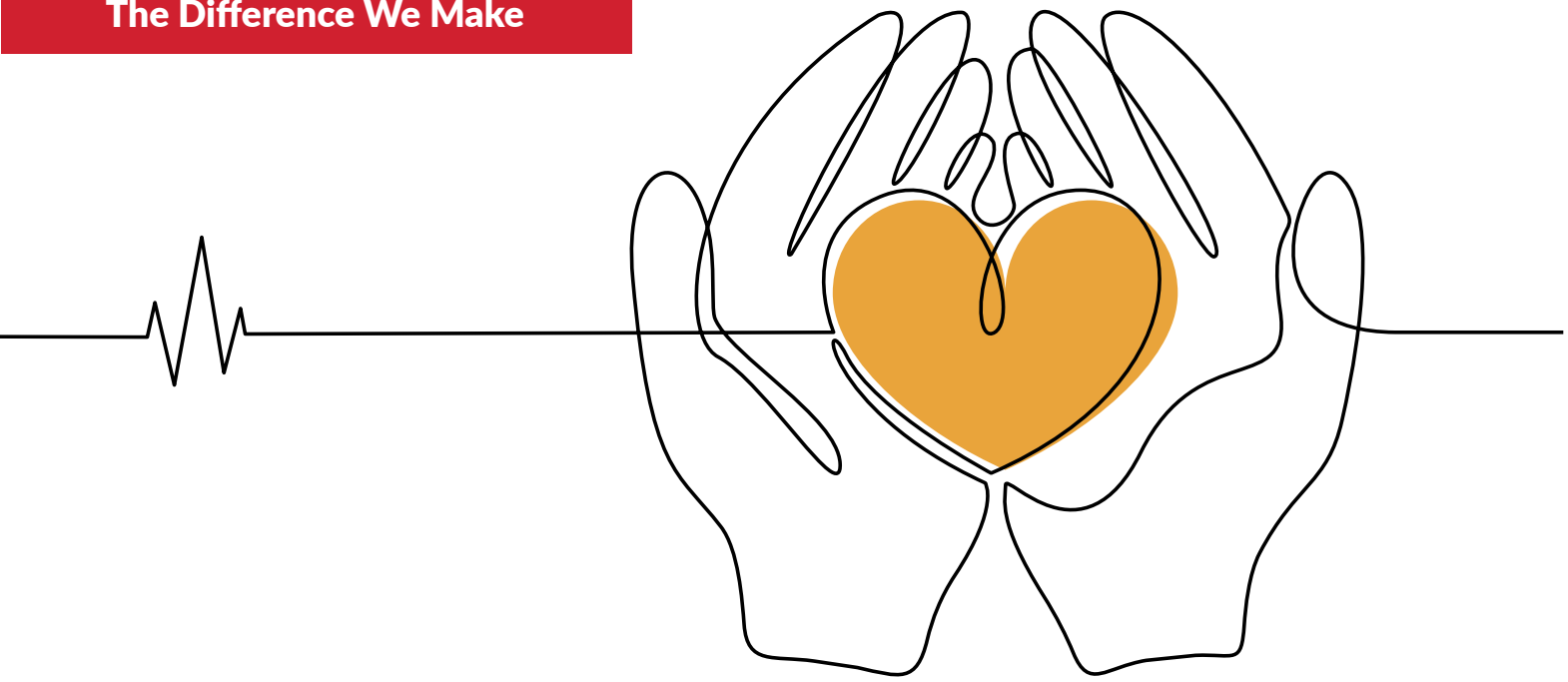
Deborah Hodge, MS, APRN, FNP-C
Houston, TX
Practice Setting: Hospital

A man in his 50s came to see me after months of subtle chest and back discomfort while doing yardwork. He hadn't seen a healthcare provider in some time. His physical exam was fairly normal, and his EKG showed no acute changes, but his symptoms concerned me.

After reviewing his history and risk factors, I contacted a cardiologist who agreed to see him that afternoon. The next day, the cardiologist called: testing had revealed four-vessel coronary disease and an ascending aortic aneurysm. The patient underwent surgery that afternoon.

When the cardiologist and the patient's loved ones told me I had saved his life, it meant everything.

My approach is simple: treat every patient as though they were family and make their concerns my own. This experience reinforced why timely access to care matters in every community—and how listening closely and acting on concerns can make a lifesaving difference for patients.





RUNNING ON EMPTY

Michelle Ebrahimi, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Houston, TX
Practice Setting: Telehealth Practice

During a telemedicine visit, a middle-aged man came to me seeking answers for persistent low energy. His labs revealed a very low ferritin level, indicating depleted iron stores.

As we discussed his care, he shared that he was receiving testosterone therapy elsewhere and had been instructed to donate blood every month. He had never had his ferritin checked and didn't understand what it measured.

I explained how frequent blood donations could deplete his iron stores and contribute to fatigue. Together, we developed a plan to pause donations, support his iron levels, and monitor his progress.

At his next visit, his ferritin had improved significantly, and he felt much better. He appreciated understanding the reasons behind his symptoms and ultimately transferred his testosterone care to me.

This experience reflects why patient education matters: when we take time to explain and listen, patients can become informed partners in their own health.



BESIDE HER, EVERY STEP

Robin Floyd, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN
Odessa, Texas
Practice Setting: Hospice

As a hospice nurse practitioner serving 18 counties in West Texas, I care for patients during some of life's most vulnerable moments. One woman I cared for at home for nearly six months remains especially close to my heart. We formed a bond early in our time together.

As her needs increased, she could no longer live alone, and her daughter was unable to provide around-the-clock care. Moving into long-term care meant leaving the familiarity of her home during an already difficult time.

I was able to follow her into that setting and remain involved in her care until her death. Continuing our relationship allowed me to offer a familiar presence and help ease her mind and spirit through the transition.

That experience reflects what matters most in my work: responding promptly, managing symptoms, and providing continuity. Being there for patients means more than meeting their medical needs—it also means bringing comfort and connection when so much is changing.



VETERAN TO VETERAN

Laura Cervantes, DNP, APRN, FNP
Rowlett, TX
Practice Setting:
NP Owned Practice

I still think about a veteran who came to me desperate for answers after struggling to get a diagnosis. As a fellow veteran, I felt an immediate connection and a responsibility to make sure he felt heard.

Although I was running behind, I sat back down and gave him the time and attention he needed. I trusted that he knew his body and that something was wrong, even when the answer wasn't obvious.

After extensive workup and care coordination, he received a diagnosis and lifesaving treatment. Knowing that taking those extra moments may have helped save his life is something I will never forget.

My primary care practice serves more than 2,000 patients in the community where I live and raise my family. My patients are my neighbors, and I care for generations of local families. This experience reminds me why those relationships matter: listening builds trust, and trust can open the door to answers.



AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY

Kirby Reed APRN, FNP
Austin, TX
Practice Setting:
Emergency Care

One emergency room encounter still stands out to me. A man in his 20s came in describing what he thought was a boil in his perineal area. During the examination, I felt a hard lump beneath the skin near a draining sore. As I gently palpated it, the lump moved.

With careful manipulation, the object moved toward the opening. After several minutes, an intact .25-caliber bullet emerged.

The patient was shocked. He told me that, around age seven, he had been accidentally shot in the abdomen by a family member. The bullet had remained in his body and apparently migrated over the years before reaching the skin. It was removed without complications.

This unusual encounter reminds me of the value of a thorough physical examination. What initially appeared to be a skin infection had an unexpected explanation. Taking the time to examine the area closely allowed me to identify and address the source of his concern.

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TNP LOVES STUDENT NPs

"As students, you already feel alone, and joining TNP means joining an organization full of people who want to help you and understand what you're going through."

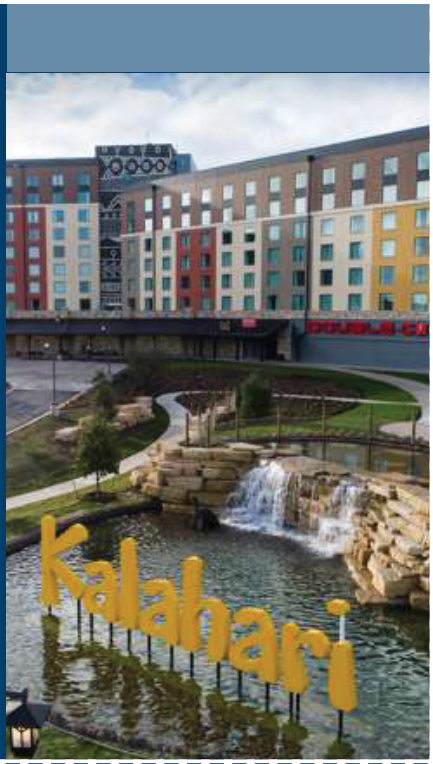
Emily Lester
TNP Member Since 2024
Austin, TX



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It was a Galveston NP Takeover!



The 2026 Annual Conference for Texas Nurse Practitioners was quite the Texas NP Takeover at Moody Gardens on Galveston Island!

With the amazing lineup of continuing education sessions that exceeded expectations, an inspirational keynote speaker, an energetic exhibit hall with engaging vendors, insightful poster presentations, and key opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the state, the conference experience did not disappoint!



Besides the fun to be had on Moody Gardens' property, our attendees' favorites included participating in TNPF's silent auction and Walk & Wine Down fundraisers to give back to fellow Texas NPs, TNP's PAC breakfast with special guest State Representative Nominee Holly Jeffreys, as well as the must-attend member appreciation event – this year was poolside with music, dancing, a taco bar, and great vibes! To close the weekend, members joined outside on Moody's rooftop terrace for a session of morning mindful meditation before the Sunday sessions.

If you weren't able to join us, we're already planning out 2027 events with YOU in mind!

Click here for a video message from TNP's CEO about our upcoming events!

Annual Conference 2026 Recap







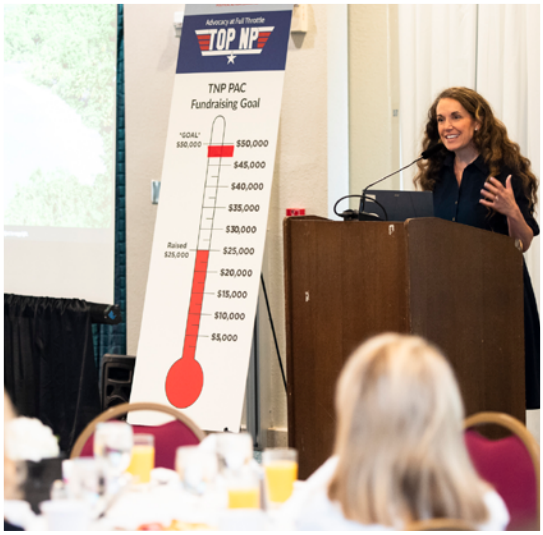












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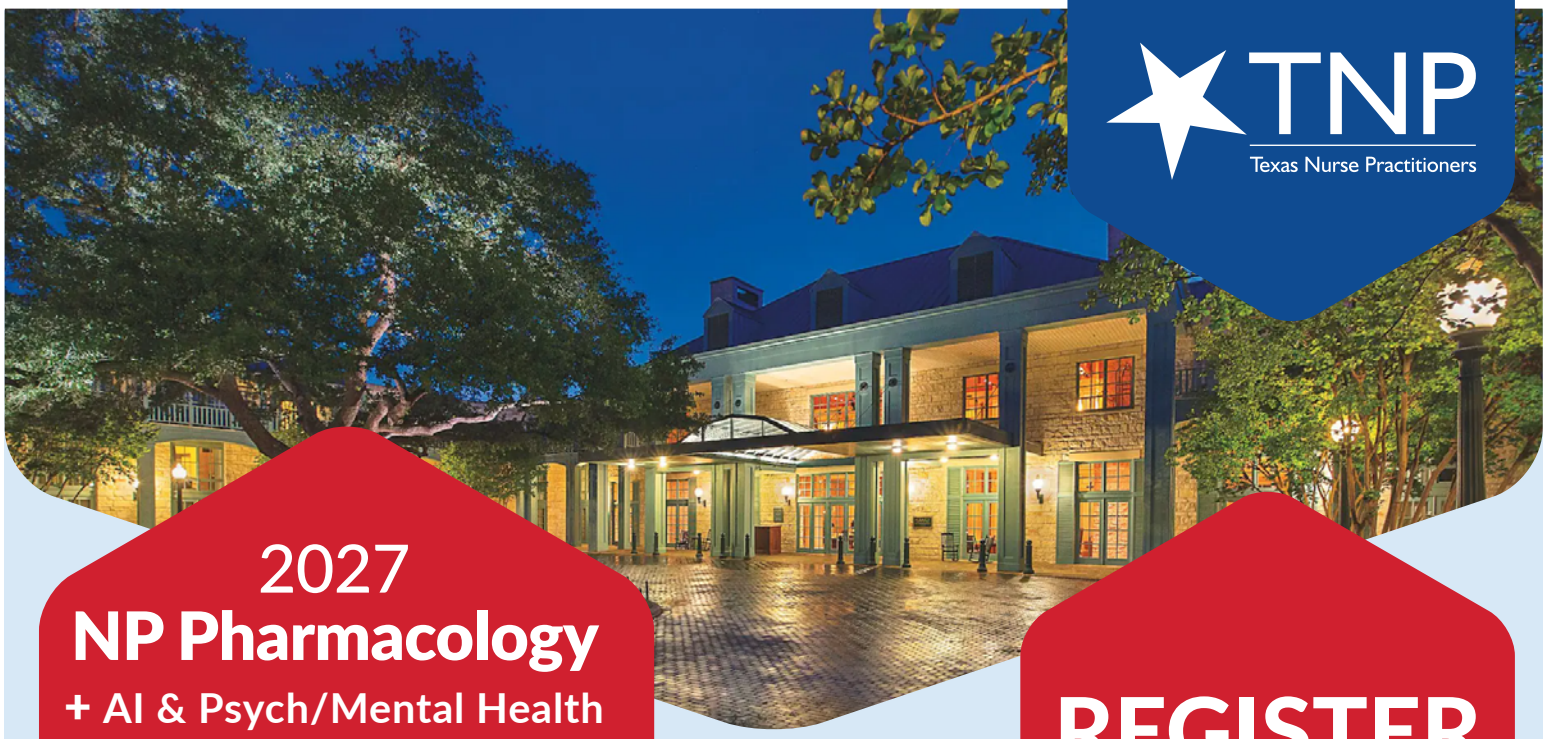
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You'll find it all on texasnp.org

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CALLING ALL NPs!

Show Up. Speak Up. Shape Policy.

The 2027 Texas Legislative Session is Coming



Join TNP's advocacy events to connect with lawmakers, sharpen your message, and fight for your profession, your patients, and the future of care in Texas.



TNP Legislative Session Town Halls

Receive timely legislative updates, learn how proposed policies may affect NPs and patients, and discover how you can take action.

February 8 | March 8 | April 12 | Virtual webinars



TNP First Wednesdays at the Capitol

Join our coalition supporters and fellow NPs at the Texas Capitol to meet with legislative offices and advocate for the profession and the patients we serve.

February 3 | March 3 | April 7 | May 5 | Austin, Texas



TNP Capitol Day

Come together with NPs and NP students from across Texas for a day of advocacy, education, and engagement at the State Capitol.

February 19, 2027 | Austin, Texas

Your voice. Your patients. Your moment.

Legislators need to hear directly from nurse practitioners about the challenges facing patients and healthcare providers across Texas. Whether you participate virtually or join us at the Capitol, your involvement strengthens our collective voice.

Pre-registration is required for all events. Register and learn more at TexasNP.org.

TNP Affiliates in Action

Strength across Texas. From the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast, our affiliates ensure a strong NP presence in communities. We're proud to partner with these organizations as they connect, support and champion nurse practitioners statewide.

HOUSTON AREA NURSE PRACTITIONERS

In July, Houston Area NPs volunteered at the **Houston Food Bank**, helping sort and box food for their community.





HANP member Michelle Ebrahimi, MSN, APRN, FNP-C attended the **Healing Politics Campaign School** at Duke University on a full scholarship from TNP.





In August, HANP members volunteered their time again at a **Back-to-School Community Event** where they offered health information and distributed donated school supplies to local elementary school children and their families.

HANP's September member meeting included a presentation sponsored by Gilead on "A Personalized Approach to Care for Your Patients with Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC): Where LIVDELZI Fits."











Houston Area NPs had a huge presence at **TNP's 2026 Annual Conference** at Moody Gardens in Galveston, including several board members in attendance. HANP is proud to shine the spotlight on several members for their contributions to TNP's conference:

- **Loyce Mofor**, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, presented her poster on "The Impact of Structured Family Meetings in the ICU."
- **Bligha Noor,** DNP, APRN. FNP-C, AGACNP-BC, CNE, presented her poster on "Managing Common Dental and Oral Complaints."
- **Gilda Martinez,** MSN, APRN, FNP-C, and Brittany D. Rhodes, PhD, APRN, CCNS, FCNS, presented their poster on "Surgical Decision-Making and Experiences Among Family Members with Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease."
- **Gilda Martinez,** MSN, APRN, FNP-C, received TNP's Community Impact Award. Congratulations, Gilda!

HANP's newly elected Board Members were also sworn in at the September meeting: Brandon McAnulty, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, RNFA, as President-Elect, and Michelle Ebrahimi, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, as Treasurer. Congratulations to both!















HANP held its 16th Annual Education Conference: Beyond the Bedside: Leading NP Education, Practice, and Influence, on Friday, October 30.

Mark your calendar for November 11 for HANP's Monthly Meeting.

AUSTIN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES

The members of Austin Advanced Practice Nurses were busy in the third quarter of the year.

In August, Austin APNs participated in a couple of back-to-school physical events to help prepare local students for a successful and healthy school year and hosted their summer social event for members at Pins Mechanical.

Katherine Schade, FNP-C, received AAPN's conference grant to attend TNP's Annual Conference.

In the works for AAPN are a preceptor directory for local students, continued sponsored dinner meetings, and a holiday party for all AAPN members in early December. Members can expect good company, dinner, drinks, and a raffle for fun prizes!

AAPN's current president, **Brenda Olmos,** will be stepping down at the end of the year, and **Jeffrey Howard** will assume the president role in January 2027.

Our next board meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2027. Interested members are welcome to attend.



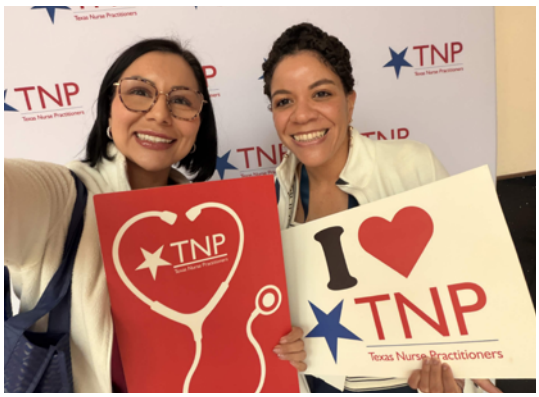














CHANGES AT ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES OF AUSTIN (PAPNA)

PAPNA is changing and staying the same.

We are bringing in more diverse speakers. We have heard from a Vivitrol medical science liaison and a TMS provider, and we have received teaching on NMDA receptor drugs while still enjoying our fun dinners and social time. We have an upcoming session with the Medical Science Liaison connected with Weltruza, the new Olanzapine LAI, who is speaking to us soon. We make active efforts to select topics and treatments of interest for our meetings.

We are creating break-out meetings at the request of students, new practitioners, and those having a hard time in practice.

We have a series on building your own treatment algorithm. Several practitioners have enhanced their treatment protocols for Bipolar II and ADHD. We worked on "Depression Decision Trees" during a Zoom session in early November. **Click on the graphic to see a decision tree example.**

We have billing experts and roundtables on improving clinical note-taking. Our next one will be "Billing Expert Tells You How to Chart!" on October 20 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

We are launching mentorship programs and community coordination and activities, and much more is to come. Sarah Allison-Kolb, Ph.D., APRN-CNP, PMHCNS-BC, the original president of PAPNA, has returned to help with the latter.

For those unaware, our community lost a very active member, educator, and someone who held us together: Donna Rolin, Ph.D., APRN-CNP, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC. We strive to honor her legacy and fill her big shoes.

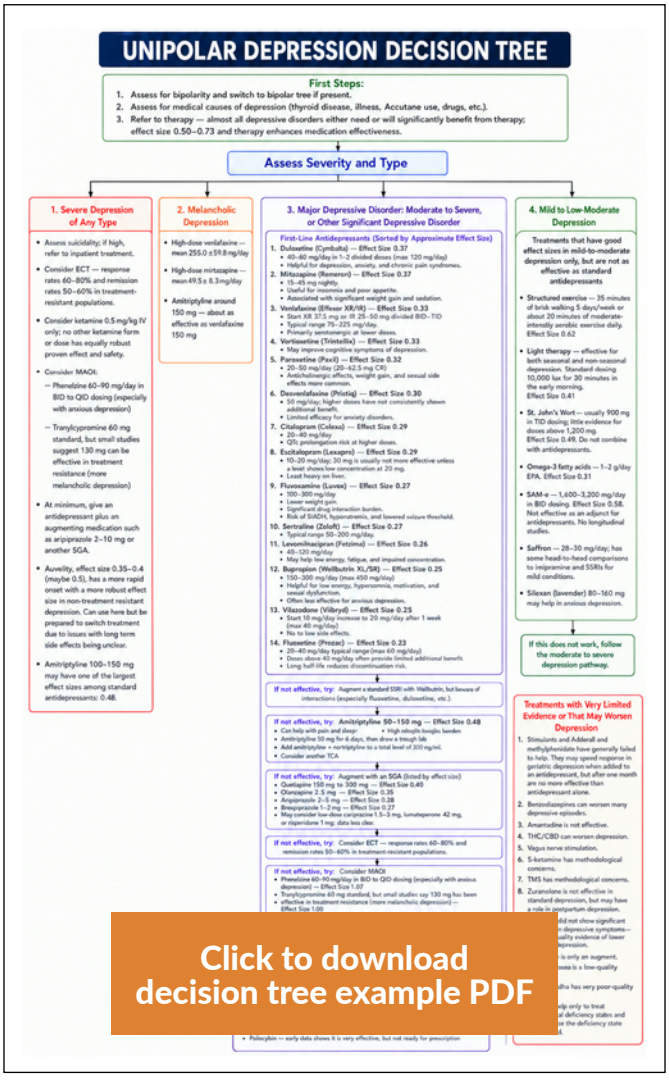
We have new leadership, including President Justin Scaffa, MSN, APRN-CNP, PMHNP-BC; Vice President Reid Luedecke, MSN, APRN-CNP, PMHNP-BC; and Stephanie Motes, MSN, APRN-CNP, PMHNP-BC, as Interim Secretary. Communications Chair Stacey Arnold, MSN, PMHNP-C, is helping us move forward technologically and will spearhead website changes over the next year.

However, long-time treasurer Lorriane Papa, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, and Legislative Chair Stella Logan, MSN, APRN-CNP, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC, are still active.

All these good people keep us in a good balance of change and the same for an exciting new year.

Our most recent meeting was on October 22nd at Verdad, where we had a presentation on Tardive Dyskinesia and Austedo XR, followed by a discussion for a balanced perspective on other treatments.

If you are a PMHNP in Austin or know one, consider getting a membership so we can better help you, our Psychiatric NP community, and thereby our patients and world.



SAN ANTONIO AREA NURSES IN ADVANCED PRACTICE

The members of San Antonio Area Nurses in Advanced Practice have been busy this last quarter.



SANAP supported the **San Antonio Police Department** by sponsoring a golf hole donating $100.00 at the 2nd Annual Fairways for the Future fundraiser at The Golf Club of Texas.

SANAP members also raised money to donation to the **San Antonio Food Bank** of $125.00 for the third quarter of the year.



Congratulations are in order for SANAP Member, Dr. Mady Stovall, for being named **TNP's 2026 Preceptor of the Year!**

SANAP members were busy at **TNP's 2026 Annual Conference** presenting CE and representing their Affiliate to recruit SANAP membership.



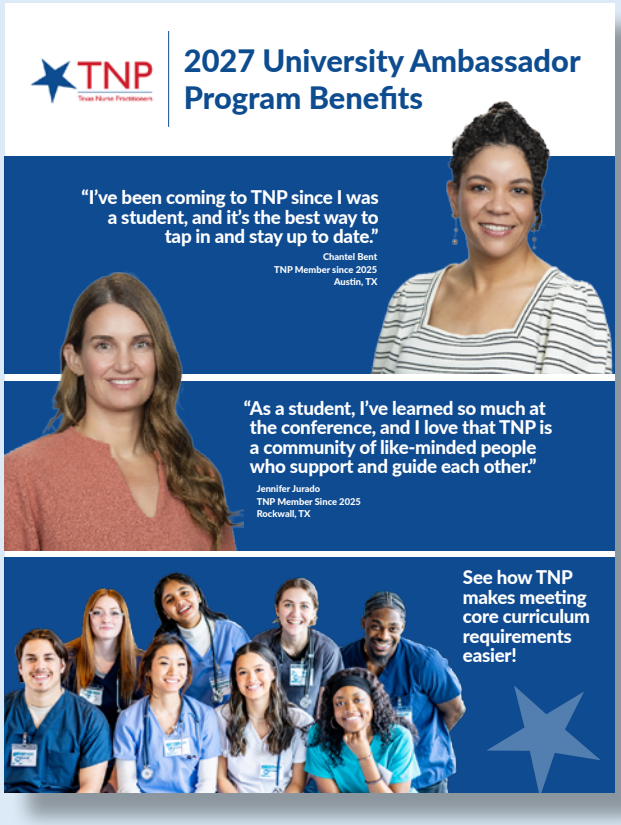
Kimberly Giberga, MSN, PNP-BCMH, FNP-C, presented on **"Getting Antidepressants Right: Three Strategies Every Prescriber Should Know."**

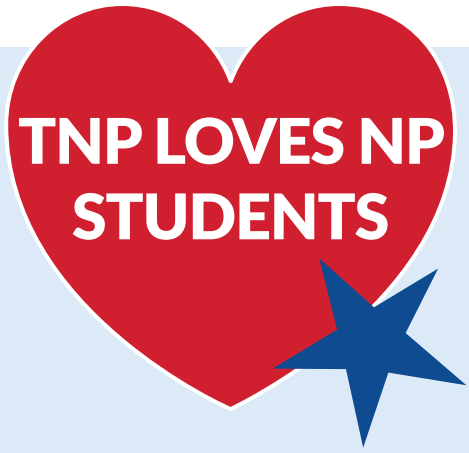


Dr. Jose Villa, DNP, APRN, FNP, BC, presented on **"The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly on Advanced 12 Lead EKG Interpretation."**

Dr. Jose Villa and **Dr. Lydia Chapa-Wilson** greeted members with a smile during Affiliate booth time to answer questions and connect with prospective members for San Antonio area advanced practice nurses.







THANK YOU TNP UNIVERSITY AMBASSADORS

We are grateful to our TNP University Ambassadors who work together with TNP to create a dynamic forum where academic leaders can engage, share insights, and collaborate on advancing the nurse practitioner profession.

Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing
Houston Christian University Linda R. Dunham Nursing School
Stephen F. Austin State University DeWitt School of Nursing
Texas A&M University College of Nursing
Texas A&M University Texarkana
Texas Christian University Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Texas Wesleyan University School of Health Professions
Texas Woman's University College of Nursing
The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation
The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing
University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Nursing
University of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing
University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing
West Texas A&M University College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Learn more about TNP's University Ambassador Program at texasnp.org.

Updates from TNP's University Ambassadors

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL OF NURSING

FUN SOCIAL MEDIA SHOUT OUT FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TURNER!



Inaugural DNP Cohort Launches with a Focus on Leadership and Health Policy Advocacy

The St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University welcomed its inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) cohort in August 2026, marking a significant milestone in the university's commitment to preparing doctoral-level nurses to improve healthcare outcomes and lead systems-level change.

The post-master's DNP program offers two specialized tracks: the Executive Leadership Track, designed for nurse leaders seeking to advance organizational and systems leadership, and the Executive Practice Track, designed for APRNs and CRNAs focused on improving patient care through quality improvement, innovation, and evidence-based practice. Developed with the working nurse in mind, the program is delivered in six semesters with a part-time course load of six credits, giving nurses flexibility to advance their education while remaining in the workforce and balancing home life. "Our DNP program prepares nurses to lead improvements in healthcare delivery, quality, and patient outcomes," said Texas State University DNP Program Director Tracey Smith, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE. "Graduates leave with the skills to drive meaningful change in their organizations and communities."

A key feature of the program is its emphasis on experiential learning and leadership development. As part of the Legislative Engagement Project, DNP students Agather Onyango, PMHNP; Melissa Cabrera, RN; Laura Genis, FNP; and Robert Soliz, FNP recently met with Texas State Representative Chris Turner and legislative assistant Melissa Armino to discuss healthcare policy issues affecting Texans. During the meeting, students presented evidence-informed recommendations addressing insurance prior authorization requirements and their impact on timely access to prescription medications and continuity of care for individuals with chronic health conditions.

Representative Turner commended the students for their commitment to improving patient care and advancing health policy. The experience provided students with firsthand opportunities to engage policymakers, communicate evidence-based recommendations, and advocate for healthcare improvements at the legislative level.

The launch of Texas State's inaugural DNP cohort and the students' participation in the Legislative Engagement Project reflect the program's commitment to preparing practice-focused nurse leaders who can influence public policy, improve healthcare systems, and advocate for better health outcomes across Texas.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF NURSING

Congratulations are in order for UT Austin faculty!



Lisa Morris, DNP, FNP-C, is a co-investigator on a $225,195 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) award through the Texas Office of the Governor. Dr. Morris, Dr. Ana Todd, and PI Dr. Li Chen Lin will develop and implement tabletop exercises, simulations, online training modules, and a train-the-trainer model to prepare students, healthcare professionals, and community members to respond to disasters and emergencies.



Amanda Alvarado, DNP, CPNP-AC, is the primary investigator on a $459,840 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board through the Nursing Innovation Grant Program (NIGP). Dr. Alvarado will evaluate an AI simulation platform designed to enhance communication skills among prelicensure nursing students.



Dr. Cara Young was selected as one of four faculty members representing The University of Texas at Austin in the 2026–27 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP).

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



WT is launching two new programs aimed directly at improving rural healthcare throughout the Texas Panhandle: The new doctoral degree in nursing practice (WT's third doctoral degree and the only such program in the Panhandle) and an Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate program (one of only two such programs in the state).

The new programs help WT meet the needs of the Texas Panhandle by providing additional critical training for those on the front lines in rural areas.

bit.ly/4yBUl7U



TNPF's Walk & Wine Down

We had an epic turnout for the **Annual Conference TNP Foundation Walk & Wine Down** fundraising event, with 70 walkers joining our annual social for an enjoyable walk in the refreshing fall air alongside NPs you just met and those you've known for quite some time.

At each TNP conference, the TNPF Walk awards the affiliate that brings the most members to walk. At the TNP Annual Conference Walk & Wine Down, we had a tie for the **Golden Flip-Flop Award** — **North Texas Nurse Practitioners** and **Brazosport Area Nurse Practitioners** were well represented, demonstrating their support for TNP Foundation and all Texas NPs!

TNPF's Silent Auction

The silent auction at this year's annual conference was record-breaking – not only with the amount of funds raised, but also the number of auction items donated.

The Foundation is most grateful for the support of Texas NP members and our community.

The following small group of individuals and organizations donated an amazing 100 items to the silent auction table. We cannot express our gratitude enough. The support for Texas NPs provided by the Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation would not be possible without our community's support. **We express our sincerest appreciation to our Texas NPs and our community of donors.**

Debbie McCrea
Deborah Hodge
East Texas Nurse Practitioner Association
Elizabeth Gigliotti
Elizabeth Gigliotti, Colleagues, & Friends
Esther Vesely
Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners
Helium Comedy
Historic Galveston Ghost Tours
Houston Area Nurse Practitioners
James Avery, Inc.
Jennifer Kucera
Karen Morrissey
Kari McGee
Lumos Diagnostics
Matt and Emily Eastin
Mimi Secor
North Texas Nurse Practitioners
Omni Austin Hotel Downtown
Park Hill Fine Arts Portraits
San Antonio Nurses in Advance Practice
Sarah Hessling
Seen Nutrition
Sharon and Jim Quigley
Texas State University
Texas Nurse Practitioners
Thirteenth Floor Entertainment
TNP Wellness Committee
Two Hives Honey
Visit Galveston
Visit San Antonio
Waco Welcome Center
Wichita County Nurse Practitioners





Spirit of Texas Giving Award

The Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation is proud to present this year's Spirit of Texas Giving Award to the **Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners**.

This award recognizes the TNP affiliate that contributed the largest total amount to the Foundation over the past year. Their generosity directly supports healthcare grants, scholarships for NP and doctoral students, disaster assistance, and humanitarian relief efforts throughout Texas.

Simply put, what you give to TNPF remains in Texas and makes a meaningful difference for nurse practitioners, their families, and their communities.

Thank you to the Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners for your generous contributions and strong support of the TNPF Silent Auction.



Connections made at TNP are priceless.

The Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation events bring together NPs throughout the state — some who have met before and others who meet for the first time at TNP's conferences — to foster connections.

From a TNPF student scholarship recipient in 2001 to an ongoing supporter of the Foundation over the years to a winning bidder at the TNPF Annual Conference silent auction, Brandi Chadwick's relationships have deepened and strengthened.

Pictured with **Brandi** is TNPF Past President **Jan Zdanuk**, who reminisced and shared commonalities as Brandi collected her winning auction items.









NPACE 2027 Event Release!

Earn CE/CME credit in-person or virtually with new 2027 NPACE events!

View All Events Today!

TNP
Texas Nurse Practitioners

WE APPRECIATE OUR VETERAN NPs!

This Veterans Day, we are extending a 25% discount for our online store to our veterans and active-duty military members.







Apply code VetDay26 for the discount

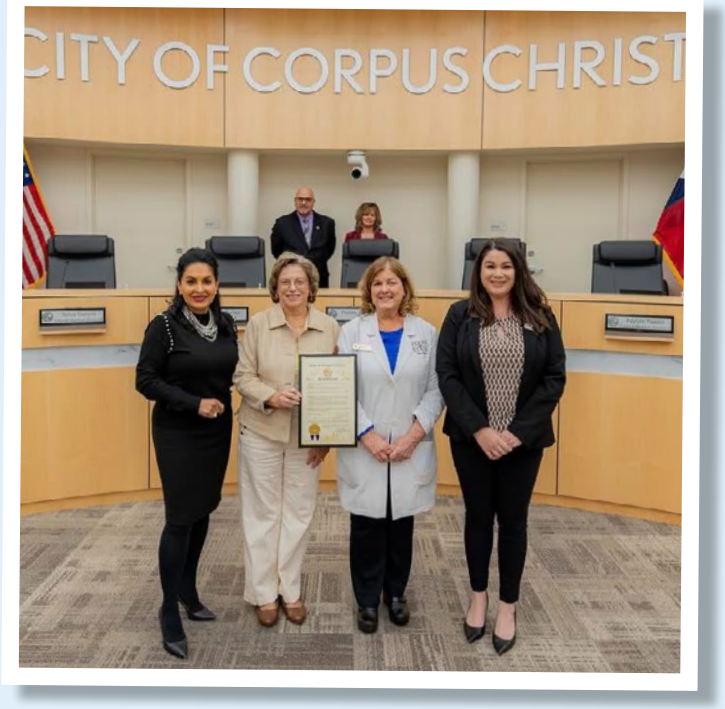
texasnp.org

TNP
Texas Nurse Practitioners

LET'S CELEBRATE
National Nurse Practitioner Week
November 8-14, 2026







TNP 2026 Resource Guide

texasnp.org

#NPWeek

Welcome

Happy Nurse Practitioner Week!

This week, we celebrate you and your fellow NPs in Texas and beyond.

We created this Resource Guide to help you raise awareness about the important role NPs play in the healthcare system. In Texas alone, over 45,000 NPs improve the lives of their patients by providing high-quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care to their communities.

We hope this guide inspires you to share your story with the community you serve each day.

Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- **Participate in TNP's NP Week photo contest.** Snap a photo of yourself celebrating NP Week, post to Facebook/Twitter/Instagram, and use the hashtag #TNPPhotoContest26 to enter. *See page 8 for more information.*
- **Use TNP's ready-made resources.** We've provided graphics, sample social media posts, and other communication strategies to help your community learn more about your profession. *See pages 6 and 7 for more information on how you can help promote your profession on social media.*
- **Connect with your city leaders.** Reach out to your local city council and request an NP Week proclamation or recognition. *See page 9 for more information.*

Thank you for your interest and participation. We would love to hear more about your practice, patient stories, and successes as an NP. If you'd like to share your story or how you plan to celebrate NP Week, please email **connie@texasnp.org.**



Shine the light on the role of NPs online, in your workplace, and in your community.

November 8-14, 2026

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Top 10 Ways to Celebrate NP Week

November 8-14, 2026

1. Join our NP Week photo contest. Snap a photo of yourself celebrating NP Week, post to Facebook/Twitter/Instagram, and use the hashtag #TNPPhotoContest26 to enter.

2. Obtain a proclamation from your mayor, city council, or city manager. If you would like a sample, please contact TNP at **connie@texasnp.org** or see the example in our guide.

3. Help TNP team up with your practice, hospital, or health system to promote NP Week activities. See the "how-to" in the guide for more information on getting started.

4. Remember the power of local media. Contact your local radio, TV, or newspaper, and ask them to do an interview or run a piece on NPs.

5. Celebrate NP Week in your new TNP gear or t-shirt. Check out our exciting new merchandise **online here**. Use promo code FSNPW26 for free shipping on all TNP store items.

6. Membership matters. To show appreciation for our Texas NPs, we are offering $30 off TNP membership during NP Week. Use promo code NPWeek2026.

7. Write a "Letter to the Editor" regarding how NPs are a part of the solution for Texas' healthcare access crisis. If you would like assistance, please contact TNP at connie@texasnp.org.

8. Support your fellow NPs and the profession! Shop online at **kendrascott.com**, 11/8 - 11/14, and use code GIVEBACK-MUKEU at checkout for 20% of your purchase to be donated to TNP Foundation.

9. Change your Facebook cover photo to our "Happy NP Week 2026" graphic and spread the word about NP Week.

10. Get involved with your local group and attend a TNP Affiliate meeting in your area, virtually, or otherwise!

Celebrating NP Week: Educate Your Employer

Sample Promotion

To help us raise awareness during Nurse Practitioner Week, one of the easiest things you can do is simply notify your employer that NP Week is coming up (or, if you own your own practice—make sure NPs working at your practice know about NP Week). Send an email to **connie@texasnp.org** with NP Week activities, events, and NP provider spotlights, and we will highlight your celebrations on our website and social media.

If you would like to encourage your employer to celebrate NP Week, follow the two simple steps below.

Step 1: Contact Your Manager or Communications Office

Look up or find the contact information for the Human Resources or Communications point person where you work. You can also contact your supervisor or manager. Send them an email (see below) letting him or her know about NP Week and how they can join the festivities.

Step 2: Make the Pitch

Sample Pitch:

Dear _____,

November 8-14 is National Nurse Practitioner Week. As part of this national appreciation week, it would be wonderful if _____ (name of employer) could recognize our NP providers and help educate the public about the role of NPs with an NP Spotlight, newsletter story, or appreciation event.

Texas Nurse Practitioners will be partnering with organizations across the state to spotlight and raise awareness of different NP Week activities taking place throughout the week. If you'd like them to share coverage of our clinic's/hospital's/practice's NP Week activities, you can contact **connie@texasnp.org** for more information.

Sincerely,

_____

Sample Social Media Posts



Sample Social Media Posts

Happy #NPWeek to the over 45,000 NPs across Texas providing high-quality, patient-centered care to Texans like YOU. #WaitingforCareTx #NPsLead #txlege

During #NPWeek, we also recognize patients. Watch this video of three Texas patients, who share their stories on how access to an NP made a critical, life-saving difference.#WaitingforCareTx #txlege #MaternalHealth #MentalHealth **bit.ly/WaitingforCareTx**

9 in 10 voters want to make it easier for patients to get care from NPs and help alleviate the provider shortage. **bit.ly/45qW0gK** #NPWeek #WaitingforCareTx #txlege

#NPWeek fun fact: Psych Mental Health NPs now account for 1 out of 3 mental health visits in the U.S. for Medicare patients. Psych NPs provide cost-effective, accessible, quality #mentalhealth care to bridge the gaps in care. #WaitingforCareTx **bit.ly/3CzvyFf**

A new public health study funded by the T.L.L. Temple Foundation found that Texas can alleviate its primary care provider shortage by 32% by removing regulatory barriers to nurse practitioners. **bit.ly/46IbwWw** #NPWeek #WaitingforCareTx #PrimaryCare

#NPWeek fun fact: Nationally, 87% of NPs are certified in an area of primary care. #WaitingforCareTx #PrimaryCare **bit.ly/3WJpBjm**

#NPWeek fun fact: Did you know NPs are more likely to practice in #rural and underserved areas? NPs play a critical role in extending care to these communities. **bit.ly/3LYT4kC** #NPWeek #WaitingforCareTx

#NPWeek fun fact: Decades of data show that patients who receive care from #NPs have good health outcomes and high levels of patient satisfaction. **bit.ly/3PTKJQ7** #NPsLead #WaitingforCareTx

#NPWeek fun fact: Nationally, 80% of NPs are seeing Medicaid patients and 74% are seeing Medicare patients. #NPsLead #WaitingforCareTx **bit.ly/3WJpBjm**

#NPWeek fun fact: The #NP profession is expanding to meet the challenge of the nation's healthcare shortfall, with more than 431,000 NPs currently licensed in the U.S. and 40,000 entering the field each year. **bit.ly/3WJpBjm**

It's #NPWeek. What better time to talk about removing barriers to NPs and their patients? Sign up for the Texans for Healthcare Access campaign today: **texans4healthcareaccess.org** #MoreAccessMoreOptions

Send your #NPWeek fun facts to @TNPAustin. #NPWeek may only be a week, but #NursePractitioners offer high-quality care year-round. #NPsLead

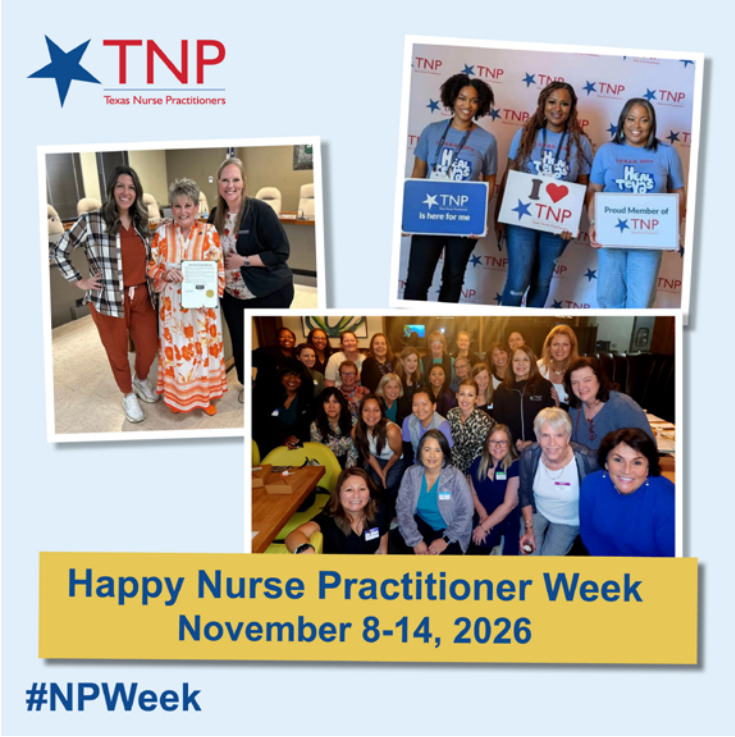
Social Media Promotions

Want to spread the word on social media? Change your Facebook cover photo or share our social media graphic below and encourage others to join the conversation during National NP Week.

Facebook Cover photo



Sample Social Media Graphic



NP Week Photo Contest

We love to see our members in action, celebrating NP Week in their workplace, with colleagues, or in the community. This year, we will be holding an NP Week photo contest to spotlight Texas NPs. Just follow these three easy steps to participate:

1. Take a photo of yourself celebrating **#NPWeek**.
2. Post your photo on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram (make sure your account is public and not private)
3. Use the hashtag **#TNPPhotoContest26** and tag TNP.

Contest ends on noon Sunday, 11/15.
We'll select the photo with the greatest number of likes.
The winner will receive a $100 Amazon gift card, courtesy of TNP.



Sample Proclamation

WHEREAS, Texas is home to more than 45,000 highly skilled nurse practitioners (NPs) who have completed advanced graduate nursing education and rigorous clinical training, equipping them to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care across a wide range of settings; and

WHEREAS, nurse practitioners provide expert care in primary, acute, and specialty settings, serving individuals and families in communities large and small, urban and rural, and contributing to more than one billion patient visits annually across the United States; and

WHEREAS, as Texas continues to face rapid population growth, provider shortages, and increasingly complex healthcare needs, nurse practitioners are uniquely positioned to meet these challenges in clinics, hospitals, emergency rooms, schools, and long-term care facilities throughout our state; and

WHEREAS, nurse practitioners serve as trusted health care providers for patients of all ages, performing essential functions such as diagnosing and managing chronic diseases, ordering and interpreting advanced diagnostic tests, responding to urgent medical conditions, and prescribing needed medications—ensuring access to timely, safe, and effective care; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, compassion, and professionalism of nurse practitioners reflect the very best of the Lone Star State, and the thousands of Texans who choose this path play a critical role in strengthening our health care system and improving health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, decades of research consistently affirm the high quality and cost-effectiveness of care delivered by nurse practitioners—findings that are supported by respected institutions such as the National Academy of Medicine, the National Governors Association, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as well as more than 40 healthcare and consumer organizations in Texas; and

WHEREAS, each year, a week in November is set aside to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of nurse practitioners to the health and well-being of individuals and families across Texas and the nation; to raise awareness of NPs' essential role in health care, a public awareness campaign will be conducted throughout the City/County of _____ during a week in November.

Be it resolved, THEREFORE, that I _____ hereby declare November 8-14, 2026, as Nurse Practitioner Week.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Letter to the Editor

Don't know how to get started writing a letter to the editor? Here are some helpful hints to guide you along the way.

Tip 1: Include Contact Information.

Include your name, title, and contact information. Your title and affiliation will give you credibility and increase the likelihood your letter will be published. Also, sign your letter. Editors will not publish anonymous letters.

Tip 2: Be Concise and Accurate.

Keeping it brief, yet punchy is key. Typically, letters to the editor are 1-3 paragraphs or under 300 words. Short letters show confidence in your position. Also, always remember to fact check. The facts and evidence support NPs, but only if you cite them correctly.

Tip 3: Be Eye-Catching, Timely, and Relevant.

Capture the editor with a compelling first sentence or headline (this may be all they have time to read). If there is something in the news headlines related to NPs or health care, find a way to tie this into your article. For example, "the paper (include specific name) reported last week that Texas patients wait months to access mental health care…"

Tip 4: Pitch a Local Angle.

Editors are more likely to print letters that talk about issues relevant to your local community. Make sure to include a local angle.

Tip 5: Put Yourself in the Letter.

Tell a personal story. For example, "As a Family Nurse Practitioner at [NAME OF HOSPITAL/ PRACTICE], and member of Texas Nurse Practitioners, I know firsthand…"

Tip 6: Avoid jargon.

Stay clear of nursing jargon and acronyms only known to your profession. Also, be sure to always check for grammar and spelling. Editors are more likely to print a letter if it is well written and doesn't require extensive editing.

Tip 7: Avoid personal attacks.

Show respect for the opposite opinion. Being rude takes away from the strength, persuasiveness, and professionalism of your position.

How to Submit Your Letter to the Editor

Amarillo Globe News

For information on how to submit a Letter to the Editor at the Amarillo Globe News, please contact Dave Henry, Director of Commentary at **dhenry@amarillo.com**.

Austin American-Statesman

Edited letters typically address a single idea and do not exceed 150 words. A reader can submit their letters directly to **views@statesman.com**. Photographs may be included for possible publication but will not be returned. For more information regarding sending letters to the editor at the Austin American-Statesman, **please see the link here**.

Corpus Christi Caller

To submit a Letter to the Editor, please **fill out all fields in the form here** or you can email your letter directly to **ctletters@caller.com.**

Dallas Morning News

Letters must be under 200 words to be considered for publication. In addition, full contact information is required. For more information regarding sending Letters to the Editor to the Dallas Morning News, **please see the link here.**

El Paso Times

To submit your Letter to the Editor, **fill out the form here**. Limit letter to 225 words or less.

Fort Worth Star Telegram

To submit a Letter to the Editor please **fill out all fields in the form here** or you can email directly to **letters@star-telegram.com**. Letters must include author's full name, address, and day and home phone numbers for verification purposes only. Suggested length is 150 words.

Houston Chronicle

To send a Letter to the Editor, email **viewpoints@chron.com.** Please **read the Houston Chronicle's guidelines here** to learn what the editorial staff looks for in Letters to the Editor.

Lubbock Avalanche Journal

Letters to the Lubbock Avalanche Journal can be submitted via email to **letterstotheeditor@lubbockonline.com.**

San Antonio Express News

Letters should include the reader's full name, address, and daytime telephone number. There is no preference regarding the length of the letter; however, the shorter the better. The letter should be long enough to make your point. Letters can be submitted to **letters@express-news.net**. For more information, **please see the link here**.

The Monitor

To submit a Letter to the Editor please **fill out all fields in the form here** or you can email directly to **letters@themonitor.com**. Limit letters to 300 words. Include your full name, address, and a phone number for verification.

Radio Public Service Announcements

Are you looking to spread the word about your service, practice, or association? Radio spots are a great venue for getting your message straight to the listener's ear. Stations even offer Public Service Announcement (PSA) spots for free.

Step 1: Identify your local radio stations. (Tip: if you live in a town with a university, college, or community college, they usually have student-run radio stations, too).

Step 2: Prepare your pitch. Know what you want to get across in your message and what it's for.

Step 3: Locate the contact person and information for Community Outreach or Community Education. Give that representative an email or a call.

Step 4: Make your pitch! Keep in mind most PSAs are between 10-20 seconds. Having trouble getting started on your pitch? Here's a sample script:

"Hello! I'm _____ from _____ (group or affiliation) and I'm looking to publish a public service announcement about Nurse Practitioner Week. We'd like to say: **November 8-14 is Nurse Practitioner Week. Texas is home to over 45,000 Nurse Practitioners providing high-quality, patient-centered care that Texans depend on. As Texas addresses our healthcare provider shortages, NPs play a critical role in bridging the healthcare gap. For more information and events across Texas, visit texasnp.org**

Things to Remember:

- PSAs do not contain specific organization names and are meant for increasing public awareness on a certain topic or event.
- If you're looking to purchase an ad spot for your practice, nonprofit, or business, you can search for and contact an advertising representative.
- Radio stations host **Community Event Calendars**. Search "Community Calendar" on the radio website and add your event. Simply fill out the form request. This is a free service and any community member may add their organization's event to the calendar. (There is a 3-4 day turn around between submitting the form and seeing it on the calendar).

We'd love to hear about your plans and activities to celebrate National NP Week.

Email us at connie@texasnp.org.