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1. How has your involvement in ALSN changed, improved, or otherwise served an interesting role in your career trajectory? (Probe: How would you say ALSN has influenced your career trajectory)

ALSN provided me with my first extramural grant award. The recognition from my employer (Dean) that resulted from this accomplishment opened up many opportunities that aligned with my skills and passion for nursing leadership education, research, and practice. As a tenure-track faculty, securing the ALSN research grant award has been of tremendous value. ALSN also has provided me with networking opportunities to connect with national and international thought leaders in the field of nursing leadership, many whom I now have developed writing and research collaborations with, as well as lasting friendships.

2. What doors have opened to you (if any) as a result of your involvement in ALSN? (Probe: have any other doors opened to you as a result of your involvement in ALSN).

At a CGEAN (now ALSN) conference several years ago, I was invited to do a write up of one of the conference sessions as part of the CGEAN Perspectives column in the Journal of Nursing Administration (JONA). That opportunity led to me applying for and securing an opportunity to serve as the ALSN Perspectives Column Editor for JONA. This opportunity allowed me to work closely with the Chief Editor and provided me with additional insights that informed by professional practice – both of which would not have been possible without my involvement with ALSN. My involvement as a member of the ALSN research committee for 4 years provided me with opportunity to collaborate with other nursing leadership researchers from across the nation on a Delphi study to identify the

nursing administration and leadership science research priorities for the future, another opportunity that would not have been possible without my involvement in ALSN.

3. What would you say to nurse leaders in academia or practice who are considering joining ALSN right now?

ALSN provides a purposeful and unique platform that brings professionals from both practice and academia together, going above and beyond career development. The size of the organization provides you with an intimate setting where you have the opportunity to develop relationships with academic and practice leaders (CNOs / researchers) that are nationally and internationally known. Everyone is fully engaged, enthusiastic, and supportive. If you are passionate about academic-practice partnerships, this is a best fit organization!

4. How did you become interested in the study of nursing leadership and how has ALSN influenced this interest?

I am a second career nurse with a prior career in business. In business, I learned the importance of leadership in good times and bad, including the different ways to lead in each situation. While I never imagined I would use my business skills in nursing, as a staff nurse I quickly saw a tremendous need for nursing leadership. This led to my desire to pursue a PhD, to conduct nursing leadership research and to teach nursing leadership courses in graduate programs. It was during my PhD education that a professor and mentor encouraged me to attend the CGEAN International Nursing Administration Research Conference (now ALSN), where I would be able to speak with, get to know, and be mentored by national experts and thought leaders in the field. ALSN is where I found my tribe; membership reinforced my passion for nursing leadership research, education, and practice.

5. Specific to nursing leadership, how can we create a better balance between academic and practice partners?

It begins with understanding that while academia and practice often have different goals and foci, there also are shared common goals including to produce high quality nurses who are poised to provide safe, effective, and compassionate care, and to ensure that nursing is engaged in evidence-based practice. By focusing on these common goals and appreciating the unique strengths that each other brings to the table, we can work together to make progress toward our shared goals and advancing the profession.

6. How can ALSN assist with this partnership?

ALSN the only professional nursing association with an equal focus on academia and practice. We bring nursing leaders from academe and practice together, to share their knowledge and experiences at the ALSN Conference, through involvement on committees, and through Board leadership. It is the only conference that I have been to where you see deans of schools of nursing sitting with and conversing with chief nurses from acute care hospitals, military, and public health. ALSN models strong academic-practice partnerships. Working together, we have a greater appreciation for the needs and challenges of both and are able to collectively develop innovative solutions.

7. What is one thing you would like ALSN members to know?

The voice of members matter! ALSN values and is proactive when it comes to member contributions. ALSN welcomes member insights and contributions and hopes they will reach out to the organization for support. ALSN wants to hear your ideas and wants to support your nursing leadership practice and research. We welcome you!