



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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### **An interview with**

**Mary Anne Schultz, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN**



With a career spanning over four decades, Mary Anne Schultz has just about done it all! Her early career in industry included running a cardiac care unit as a nurse manager and a nursing director. Her service in academia as a Professor at Cal State University was as Associate Dean and strategic planner. She was a key stakeholder in the development of the ANA's genetic and genomic nursing competencies, curricula guidelines and outcome indicators. As a member of Governor Newsome's precision medicine taskforce, Mary Anne is a force with a passion for the profession of nursing and nursing leadership. While she says she is in the twilight of her career, she continues to seek out new opportunities to lead and serve -- or in her words, "I'm not retired, I'm rewired".

Mary Anne's involvement with ALSN goes back to 1995 and her days as a doctoral student under the mentorship of Donna McNeese Smith, who encouraged her to become a member of the organization. She has found the networking relationships available to her as an ALSN member integral to her scholarly work and her ability to achieve tenure as a professor at Cal State. She has been most involved with ALSN over the past 5-6 years where she is currently an active member of the Research Committee.

Mary Anne's interest in the study of nursing leadership began with her focus on healthcare administration. Her health services dissertation focused on the financial and structural factors in healthcare organizations and the impact of those factors on patient mortality. Always a member of

nursing leadership organizations, she broadened that focus to include nursing leadership, her true passion.

Networking opportunities with ALSN helped her translate her scholarly work into peer-reviewed publications. Mary Anne conveys the value of these opportunities as a key factor for any individual, whether an academician or a leader in practice, to consider when contemplating membership in ALSN. To create a better balance between academic and practice partnerships, she acknowledges the need for ALSN members to engage in purposeful outreach and connect with leaders in both areas, perhaps with letter writing campaigns or other more personalized approaches.