



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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**An interview with**

**Linda Morrow, DNP, MBA, NE-BC, CPHQ  
Clinical Associate Professor, Sacred Heart University  
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**Tell us a little bit about your career path, background, and interest in advancing the science of nursing leadership.**

I am a clinical associate professor in the online MSN program – Nursing Management and Executive Leadership track - at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield CT. I have been at the university for 13 years. I also work per diem at Atrium Health Navicent in Macon, GA as an Administrative House Supervisor. So, I have one foot in academia and one foot in practice. It really is a very nice combination of roles as the work I do at the hospital informs my teaching and my teaching informs my practice. The piece that I have been missing in my nursing career is actually using my knowledge to advance the science of nursing leadership. The ALSN is helping me to fill this void. In the rapidly changing world in which we live, there is so much that we do not know about the science of nursing leadership. The ALSN members work collaboratively on research projects to generate new knowledge in the field and disseminate study results at conferences and through peer-reviewed journal publications.

**How did you hear about ALSN and what has been your experience with this organization?**

I heard about ALSN from a colleague, Dr. Nancy Ballard. She shared with me how joining ALSN was one of the best career decisions that she has made. At this time, Dr. Ballard was in the process of

conducting a multi-site research study with a fellow ALSN member. She mentioned how much support she received from fellow members. I am a member today because of the excitement and passion she exhibited for what ALSN stands for and the support she received from being a member of this professional organization. She also extended the offer to allow Atrium Health Navicent to serve as a site for her multi-site research study which was designed to evaluate the association of perceived team trustworthiness and quality and operational outcomes at the unit level. My experience with ALSN has been exceptional in every way. I have a practice doctorate and not a PhD. The ALSN is a very inclusive professional organization and welcomes nurses from all educational backgrounds, races, nationalities, and abilities. They recognize that we all have much to contribute, and everyone has always been very welcoming. There are so many opportunities for members to gain new knowledge, network, and make new friends that will encourage and support you in whatever you would like to do to advance the science of nursing leadership. The ALSN has frequent webinars that members can take advantage of at a reduced cost as well as an annual conference.

### **What committee are you a member of?**

Membership Committee -- I have served on the Membership Committee as well as the International Belonging Committee (subcommittee of the Membership Committee). As a member of these committees, I met Dr. Sonia Udod, a member from Canada. We have worked together to recruit nurses from other countries around the world to increase the diversity of our membership. Research Committee – I have been a member of the Research Committee for 2 yrs. and feel privileged to have been able to review research proposals for the annual ALSN grant opportunity. My colleagues on this committee have taught me so much about critically appraising research proposals. They share their knowledge in a very kind and caring manner. What I am most excited about is that the research committee is conducting a study to understand registered nurses' use of social media including what platforms they are on and how they use social media to make career and employment decisions.

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

I have always been interested in the study of nursing leadership. Joining ALSN has provided me the support I need via educational opportunities as well as working with colleagues that have expertise in research methodology and statistics.

### **One of our goals is to create a better balance between academic and practice partners. What are your thoughts/ideas on how this could be accomplished?**

I would love to see an increase in membership with our practice partners as well as more collaboration with AONL in terms of research.

### **What are your thoughts/ideas on how to advance DEI within our organization?**

We need to grow the diversity of our membership. We are an international organization and would love to engage members from other countries to advance nursing leadership science.

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

Just make sure that you do not put off your decision to join ALSN. Due to managing multiple competing priorities, I kept putting off joining ALSN and that was a huge mistake. There are so many ways to engage in ALSN. Join one of the committees. When I joined ALSN, I jumped in with both feet and joined the Membership committee. I still recall being welcomed with open arms despite meetings being held virtually.

**What are 3 things that others may not know about you that you would like to share?**

I have been an ANCC Magnet appraiser since 2005. It has been a privilege and quite an honor to serve in this capacity. I have conducted site visits domestically and internationally. I met the man of my dreams when I was 17 y.o. and we have been married for 43 years. We have 5 beautiful grandchildren ages 10 years and under. My husband and I enjoy sailing on Lake Sinclair in Central Georgia and in the Gulf of Mexico.