



Association for Leadership Science in Nursing

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An Interview With

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Tell us a little about your career path, background, and interest in advancing the science of nursing leadership.

I received my Doctor of Nursing Practice in organizational leadership and a Certificate in Health Professions Education from the University of Kansas. I am currently an assistant professor and track lead of the graduate nursing administration and leadership track at Creighton University College of Nursing. I am board certified as a nurse executive advanced leader and completed a certificate program as a leadership coach from Rice University. I've held several leadership positions in nursing and nursing education. My interests in advancing the science of nursing leadership include empowering nurse leaders to tell their stories, nurse leader burnout, leadership simulation experiences, developing leadership skills in new graduate nurses, relational leadership theory, complexity science and systems leadership in free and charitable clinics.

How did you hear about ALSN and what has been your experience with this organization? (include the committee that the person is a member of)

I ran across ALSN online when I was desperately searching for a leadership organization that integrated academia and practice. I noticed that one of my previous professors Dr. Betsy Frank was a member of ALSN. I reached out to Betsy, and she suggested that I join. I did, and from the very first conference I knew that I had finally found a leadership organization for me. My experiences with ALSN have been so meaningful and significant that I decided I needed to be of service to the

organization. So, I ran for and was elected to the Succession Planning Committee. ALSN is the one membership that I do not let lapse and the one conference that I attend every year. I am so glad I joined this organization!

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

Since studying leadership at the University of Kansas, I have been interested in the evidence surrounding nursing leadership practice. ALSN has greatly influenced my continued interest in leadership science. At that very first conference I instantly felt connected to members and the organization. For example, Dr. Joyce Fitzpatrick welcomed me as a partner in expanding her research related to bedside nurses' storytelling to nurse leader storytelling. A big discovery for me was that all the nurse leader stories aligned with the Authentic Nursing Leadership theory. Dr. Angela Prestia welcomed me and my idea to pilot the use of her Nursing Leadership Mission Critical Checklist © (NLMCC) with leadership students at two separate universities. From the pilot we identified that the NLMCC is an important tool to assist nurse leaders in keeping connected with self, staff and patients and assuring essential elements of the nurse leader role are kept at the forefront. We are very interested in the possibilities of a larger qualitative study to further explore themes with practice partners. In addition, I have been welcomed to a group of ALSN members who are doing a scoping review of the literature related to relational leadership theory and outcomes.

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

One idea on how to accomplish better balance between academic and practice partners could be the power of storytelling. Perhaps ALSN could do a spotlight on academic and practice partnerships amongst members. I imagine we have members who could tell their stories related to how the partnerships started, how it has benefited them personally and organizationally and how they have evolved.

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

My advice to people considering joining ALSN is simple, JOIN! Don't wait any longer. Start getting connected to your people!