



# member SPOTLIGHT



**DAVID BAILEY, PhD, RN, MBA, CCRN-K, NEA-BC, FACHE**

## *1. How did you first learn about the Association for Leadership Science in Nursing (ALSN)?*

Shortly before the 2013 conference, I was serving as an interim Assistant Chief Nursing Officer and in school pursuing my PhD. As I was writing my dissertation proposal, I became aware of the professional organization CGEAN (now called ALSN) for academic and practice leaders. Its mission made sense to me and I recognized the names of the organization leaders from my studies. I decided to attend the national conference, and immediately I knew I had found my group. While there were few attendees from the practice settings at that time, I was enthusiastically welcomed by academic leaders who I admired and whose works I had read and studied. Immediately I made wonderful connections with various leaders who were

interested in my research problem and who continued to encourage me throughout my journey.

## *2. How has your involvement with ALSN influenced your career trajectory?*

ALSN leaders and organization membership have influenced my career in several ways. I have the opportunity to collaborate with leaders in the field on multiple projects, and I am in the process of developing three different manuscripts with other ALSN members. Professional conversations and interactions have prompted me to think more broadly about important issues that nurse leaders face. As I advanced in my career [note: currently Chief Nursing Office at UCLA Health – Santa Monica], I continued to experience personal and professional growth through the interest and support of ALSN leaders. While involved with ALSN, I have had the privilege to be part of several committees and on the annual conference planning committee for the last few years. I have gained numerous opportunities to work and network with nurse leaders and scholars who are making a difference at the national level.

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

For those of you who have a passion for nursing administration and leadership, this is the organization for you! Belonging to ALSN will take you to new levels in your understanding of the academia/practice and research connections. Members are mentors and researchers who are in unique positions in help you grow. You have an opportunity to discover different perspectives on issues in both academics and practice. Because ALSN is a smaller organization, your opportunity for networking and national/ international leadership on committees is enhanced. We have the people in place to make things happen!

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

I actually started my leadership journey during my adolescence through the church. When I became a nurse, I gravitated toward leadership roles and initiatives/projects. I didn't study nursing administration until I was in my

master's program. I knew then I had found my calling. It has been an upward journey with various leadership roles these past 27 years. I found that the study of nursing administration was so important; I feel I reached a much deeper level of understanding with my doctoral studies. I find that we can also learn so much by looking at work done in other disciplines outside of nursing (for example, the work articulated by Simon Sinek on developing infinite goals). One of my continuing goals is to mentor others on their nursing administration/research journey – and to give back as others have invested in me.

*5. How do you think we can create a better balance between academic and practice partners and how can ALSN assist with this partnership?*

Currently ALSN membership consists of 80 percent research/academic and 20 percent practice associated. ALSN is the bridge. We need a blend of both sides to have meaningful discussions and collaboration on significant issues. We need to get in each other's "sandboxes" to fully understand issues, develop the research questions, set direction, and achieve needed outcomes. Together we can make a difference on topics of a shared interest. Our organization's name change creates an obligation and responsibility for bridging the interests of both sides.

*6. What is the one thing you would like ALSN members to know?*

ALSN provides the opportunity to develop professional relationships with recognized leaders, scholars, researchers, and academicians who graciously mentor others. Consider joining us so that you can help make a difference.



Which ALSN member do you think we should highlight?  
Let us know by emailing [office@nursingleadershopsience.org](mailto:office@nursingleadershopsience.org)