

# NONPF 2012 ELECTION

## SLATE OF CANDIDATES

**POSITION: PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**CANDIDATES: Sheila Melander and Nancy Ridenour**



**Sheila Melander, DSN, ACNP, FAANP, FCCM**

Professor of Nursing, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

**Number of Years with NONPF: 11**

**Candidate description, educational background, leadership roles and experience relative to the position:** Dr. Melander has maintained current clinical practice as an Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner for over 12 years, working in both hospital and community-based setting practice. She completed her doctoral preparation at the University of Alabama Birmingham and Post-Master's preparation as an Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner from Vanderbilt University. She has also been a NP educator for over 15 years and is currently a Professor of Nursing at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Dr. Melander is very active in both clinical and education-focused professional organizations at the national level. Within NONPF, she currently serves on the Board of Directors and is Board liaison to the Member Resources Committee. She has also served as the Chairperson of the NONPF Annual Meeting for 4 consecutive years, overseeing the conference program development. Her other leadership activities have included serving as Membership Chair of the Nursing Section for the Society of Critical Care Medicine and also a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nursing's Public Policy Committee. Dr. Melander is a Fellow in the American College of Critical Care Medicine and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Recognized widely for her work in Adult Acute Care NP education and practice, Dr. Melander has participated in national projects to define and update acute care scope and standards of practice. As well, she has worked on various competencies projects, including the development of the new adult-gerontological acute care NP competencies. She consults widely on acute care NP curriculum and practice, and recently served on a NONPF appointed work group to develop a statement to clarify the distinctions and overlap of primary care and acute care NP practice.

**Unique qualities and strengths the candidate would bring to the position:** Dr. Melander has a strong commitment to advancing quality as reflected in the 15 years she has been involved in the education of acute care nurse practitioners. She obtained NIH funding for the implementation of one of the early ACNP programs. Over ten years later, the program had a national board passage rate of 100%. She has also been involved nationally in advancing quality through serving on ethics committees and professional development committees to ensure that continued advancement of the role for APRNs. As well, she was involved early in the implementation of the DNP degree in the acute care arena.

Through her work at the national and institutional levels, Dr. Melander seeks to influence policy for

APRNs in education and practice She has experienced being the first APRN ever to be privileged or credentialed in a facility and being the first APRN to sit on an Allied Health hospital committee. Dr. Melander hopes to continue bringing this experience to the work of the NONPF Board.

Dr. Melander has an appreciation for the need to encourage a range of scholarly activities within the faculty role. She is a strong advocate of maintaining an active clinical practice and has developed innovative faculty practice arrangements. She has published case study texts and has also published numerous articles pertaining to the APRN role and practice experiences.

Through her positions in a clinical cardiovascular practice and as a Professor within the College of Nursing, Dr. Melander has developed a vast array of experiences that will be useful to identifying and generating different resources to strengthen NONPF. As well, she would bring to the position of President a broad perspective on NP education and health care gained through her background and experiences in other organizations. She intends to integrate this perspective into fostering expanded growth and opportunities for NONPF.



**Nancy Ridenour, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN**

Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Policy Advisor to the Chancellor,  
University of New Mexico

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 14

**Candidate description, educational background, leadership roles and experience relative to the position:** Dr. Ridenour has been a nurse practitioner for over 30 years. She obtained her BSN, MSN, ANP, and FNP at the University of Colorado and the PhD at Texas Tech University. She has focused her practice in providing primary care for vulnerable and underserved populations with an emphasis on rural areas. She has held progressively more complex positions in nursing education from faculty to associate dean to Dean. She has initiated nurse practitioner programs at the masters level at the University of Colorado and Texas Tech University and as Dean provided leadership for the development of the DNP programs at Illinois State University and the University of New Mexico. She currently serves as health policy adviser to the Chancellor of the University of New Mexico Health System. She is a nationally recognized speaker on advanced practice and transforming health care and health professions education. Her leadership expertise has been enhanced by several fellowships: National Endowment for the Humanities, US HHS Primary Care Policy Fellowship, RWJ Executive Nurse Fellowship, and RWJ Health Policy Fellowship. She has demonstrated expertise in strategic planning, goal setting, and providing sustainability for programs.

**Unique qualities and strengths the candidate would bring to the position:** Dr. Ridenour has developed expertise with measurable outcomes in the 5 areas of NONPF's current strategic plan. She has extensive experience in State and Federal policy and advocacy, major national professional leadership experience and a longstanding commitment and service to NONPF. Specifically, Dr. Ridenour was a 2007-10 RWJ Health Policy Fellow working on the House Ways and Means Committee, involved in health care reform issues in primary care. While working on Capitol Hill she championed the need for increased access to care, enhanced quality of care, and affordable costs. She currently serves as Associate Editor for Policy for the Journal of Professional Nursing. Such policy experience would benefit NONPF's advocacy efforts in the area of health care reform and implementation of the IOM Report: The Future of Nursing. In addition, she has presented health policy issues at several NONPF conferences and serves as an advisor on health policy and on philanthropy to the NONPF Board. As a RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow, Dr. Ridenour attended FundRaising School at Indiana University and has developed philanthropic approaches for insuring sustainability for nursing programs and nursing associations. She served as Chair of the Foundation of Sigma Theta Tau, International. In her current role as Dean at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing, she has developed programs to increase the diversity of the faculty and the student population. Dr. Ridenour has longstanding leadership experience with several

national organizations such as the American Academy of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, International, and the Carter Center. For example, her Carter Center leadership in planning an Interprofessional Health Education (IPE) Summit and work on incorporating behavioral health content into primary care provides visibility and support for NONPF's IPE Initiatives.

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## **POSITION: TREASURER**

**CANDIDATES: Julie Marfell and Bruce Zitkus**



**Julie Marfell, DNP, APRN, DNP-BC, FAANP**

Associate Dean for Family Nursing, Frontier Nursing University

**Number of Years with NONPF: 17**

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:** Dr. Marfell is the Associate Dean for Family Nursing at Frontier Nursing University. She was the Chair of Family Nursing at the Frontier School of

Midwifery and Family Nursing for 11 years prior to accepting this new position. She served as a member of the leadership team with the initial institutional (SACSCOC) and professional (NLNAC) accreditation as well as the reaffirmation visits for the MSN and DNP at Frontier. Dr. Marfell continues to be responsible for the running of the Department of Family Nursing. In her new position she is also oversees the offices of Recruitment and Retention, Financial Aid, and Clinical Credentialing. She has recruited both faculty and students and developed curriculum for Frontier. Dr. Marfell is a member of the Administrative Team at Frontier and provides leadership and vision for decision making and strategic planning. She was a leader in the implementation of the Faculty Practice Program at Frontier and also served as the Executive Director for Frontier Nursing Healthcare overseeing operations for four rural health clinics.

Dr. Marfell became an FNP as part of her ND/DNP program at Rush University in 1994. She joined the faculty at Rush where she taught and worked with the Faculty Practice for five years before coming to Frontier. Dr. Marfell has continued to practice as an FNP primarily with rural and underserved populations. She is currently practicing at The Little Clinic.

Dr. Marfell has been active in professional organizations serving in leadership roles within the Illinois Nursing Association and on committees for the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Midwives. Dr. Marfell is currently a member of the KCNPNM Board of Directors. She has been active in legislative issues including increasing scope of practice for APRNS in KY. She has also helped to develop and implement a program to educate KCNPNM members on the IOM report on the Future of Nursing by presenting information at regional meetings. She has served on the KCNPNM annual conference committee.

Dr. Marfell is currently serving as Treasurer of NONPF and in this role also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. As Treasurer, she has led the organization through a financial audit and the development of new fiscal policies. Dr Marfell has also been instrumental in obtaining new accounting services for NONPF that have improved financial reporting in the organization. She has led the organization to a positive financial standing through a combination of marketing, careful budgeting, implementation of new programs, and increased fund raising efforts. Dr. Marfell is committed to improving NONPF business practices to strengthen the resources to support the mission of educating a quality NP workforce to meet evolving societal health needs.

Dr. Marfell's other leadership roles in NONPF have included serving as the Co-Chairperson for the Program Directors SIG, as a SIG member, as the Chair for the Nominating Committee, and as a member of the Advisory Board on a 2007-2009 grant to study specialization and subspecialization in NP programs. Dr. Marfell was a member of the task force for the Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies (2011) and currently leads the Family/LifeSpan work group that is a subset of the Population Focused Competency Task Force.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** If re-elected to the office of Treasurer at NONPF, Dr. Marfell pledges to continue to lead the Board of Directors in evaluating and strengthening financial resources. She will seek out ways to increase revenue and continue to evaluate fiscal expenditures. She will continue to collaborate with the NONPF Board and the general membership regarding funding activities. As a member of the Executive Committee of NONPF, she will also continue to participate in decision making related to advancing quality in practice by evaluating educational standards and participating in activities that influence policy for continued funding of nursing education and issues related to scope of practice for NP's. She will also continue to facilitate, evaluate and foster diversity in NONPF membership and in advance practice nursing through outreach and education.



**Bruce S. Zitkus, EdD, ARNP, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, CDE**

Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, Long Island University

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 11

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:** After his experiences as a Hospital Corpsman in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Bruce Zitkus pursued a nursing career. His educational journey consisted of obtaining a BA in Philosophy (Catholic University of America), an AAS in Undergraduate Nursing (Rockland Community College), a BS in Nursing (The University of the State of New York, Albany), a MS as an Adult Nurse Practitioner (Stony Brook University), a Post-Masters as a Family Nurse Practitioner (Stony Brook University), and Doctorate in Education in Educational Administration (Dowling College).

For over 14 years, Dr. Zitkus taught in NP programs at Stony Brook University. His leadership roles at the university included serving at one time as Director of the Advanced Practice Nursing Programs in Adult Health. Dr. Zitkus currently is Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University in Brookville, NY. He maintains clinical practice as a NP within internal medicine and family medicine practice, and he has also held NP hospitalist roles.

Through various experiences in nursing and non-nursing roles at the local and national levels, Dr. Zitkus has developed leadership skills and abilities. He has held the position of President and other Board roles within the Suffolk County Chapter of the Association of Critical Care Nurses on Long Island, NY. In the Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island, Inc, he served as President and Treasurer and continues to serve as Chair of the Finance and Research Committees. In the Kappa Gamma Chapter of STTI, he served as President and Chair of the Finance Committee. He has held several leadership positions at Stony Brook University. At the national level, Dr. Zitkus served as Member and Chair of the AANP Nominations Committee and also recently as a member of the Governance Committee of STTI. He currently serves as Chair of the NONPF Member Resources Committee.

Dr. Zitkus has received numerous leadership awards, including: 2010 AANP New York State NP Award for Excellence; 2009 The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State Nancy J. McIntyre, PhD, FNP, NP of the Year award; 2009 Kappa Gamma Chapter of STTI Outstanding Leadership Award; and 2005 Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island NP of the Year Award.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** The unique qualities and strengths that Dr. Zitkus feels he would bring to the Treasurer position in NONPF would be the fiduciary experiences he has had during his nursing and non-nursing careers. Specifically, his work in the Office of the Commanding Officer in the U.S. Navy gave him a unique perspective on the financial running of a medical center and the various responsibilities associated with financial management. He developed an understanding of fund raising from alumni, corporations, and foundations from his work at Catholic University in the Office of the President as the Assistant to the Director of Development. He later became the Director of Development Records and was responsible for all the financial records of those donating to the university. The combination of his career positions and experience as Treasurer of other nursing organizations have demonstrated Dr. Zitkus' strengths in financial management and commitment to providing excellence in his work.

Throughout his career, Dr. Zitkus has demonstrated his ability to positively influence policies. As a member of STTI, he initiated a policy reversal about the rental of membership lists to ensure that researchers can have access to STTI members. After experiencing the internal workings of the AANP Nominations Committee, he identified improvements for the nominations that led to Bylaws changes to clarify the responsibilities of elected positions as well as administrative issues related to the nominations process. He also worked on other Bylaws issues for STTI to clarify membership requirements for potential chapter inductees.

Dr. Zitkus supports the goal to foster diversity and has actively pursued the need for diversity in all the various educational programs and leadership positions he has held. He believes it is important not only to have a diversity both ethnically and culturally, but also with varying points of view. This can only enrich a program, committee or organization.

Dr. Zitkus strongly believes in the need to develop, strengthen, and maintain resources not only for nurse practitioners, but also the organizations devoted to promoting nurse practitioners in various roles. This includes financial, educational, legislative, business, public relations, and any other resource that will promote both the nurse practitioner and his/her role locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Of course, to promote these ideals, there is a need to increase financial resources in this time of economic challenge. Dr. Zitkus is running for Treasurer of NONPF as he believes he can provide this leadership and increase our resources.

## **POSITION: BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE (Electing 3)**

**CANDIDATES: Susan Buchholz, Susan Corbridge, Lynne Dunphy, Susan Kelly-Weeder, Carmen Paniagua, and Susan Schaffer**



**Susan Buchholz, PhD, ANP-BC**

Associate Professor, Rush University College of Nursing

**Number of Years with NONPF: 8**

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:**

Dr. Susan Weber Buchholz received her BS in Nursing from Capital University, her MS in Nursing from Indiana University, and her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University. Her initial faculty appointment was at Purdue University Calumet, where for seven years she was the Program Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program. Two years ago, she joined the faculty as Associate Professor at Rush University College of Nursing where she teaches in the masters and doctoral programs and advises Adult Nurse Practitioner students. For the past nine years, she has been a nurse practitioner in a practice for uninsured adults. In addition to her practitioner-teacher role, she has a research program in physical activity promotion for adults. She has also conducted research examining physical activity counseling and physical fitness assessment practices of nurse practitioners.

Dr. Buchholz has been an active member of NONPF for the past eight years, and regularly presents papers and posters at the national conference. She joined the Research Committee in 2004; and in 2007 was instrumental in the development of the Research SIG for which she is the present co-chair. In 2010, she represented NONPF at the Nurse Practitioner Research Agenda Roundtable to create and promote a centralized long-term research agenda related to the nurse practitioner role. She has also been a member of the Global Advancement Committee and the International SIG.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Buchholz is adept at creating, implementing, and evaluating curricular guidelines and clinical experiences that provide students with optimal opportunities for preparation as nurse practitioners. Teaching across nurse practitioner programs at Rush University has broadened her understanding of how nurse practitioners close the gap in providing primary care health care from the youngest to the oldest of the nation's citizens. Dr. Buchholz engages in strategic planning that carefully reviews the historical context of yesterday, understands the present needs of today, and embraces the future of opportunity. Having provided care to a population with limited resources has helped her learn that there are often many solutions to challenging situations. As the need for expert healthcare continues to grow in our nation, she is firmly convinced that nurse practitioners will not only be a critical part of that provision of care, but must be, in order to help the nation be successful at keeping their citizens strong, healthy and vital.

Dr. Buchholz believes in collaboration. She is well-prepared to participate in the leadership of NONPF and will bring a well-thought out and measured approach to meeting the needs of the membership and the populations we serve.



**Susan J. Corbridge, PhD, APN, FAANP**

Director of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center

**Number of Years with NONPF: 7**

**Nominee’s educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:**

Dr. Susan J. Corbridge received her BSN from Northwestern University, her MS & Post-Masters ACNP Certificate from Rush University, and her PhD from the University of Illinois. She is the Director of the

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center.

Dr. Corbridge has been a faculty member for thirteen years in the acute care, adult and gerontology nurse practitioner programs at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She also serves as a frequent lecturer on respiratory diseases for the family, midwifery and women’s health nurse practitioner programs, as well as a guest lecturer in other nurse practitioner programs in the Chicago area. She is a frequent mentor for visiting advanced practice nurses from Korea to support them in developing the role of the advanced practice nurse. Her contributions to nurse practitioner education have been acknowledged with the 2007 and 2010 Nurse Educator of Illinois Awards and the NONPF 2010 Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Educator Award. Her clinical practice area is pulmonary and critical care and she lectures and publishes widely on pulmonary topics to enhance education and excellence in practice.

Dr. Corbridge is an active member of NONPF as a frequent conference presenter and member of the Acute Care special interest group. In addition, she is a fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and a member of the acute care forum. As a nurse practitioner educator, a lack of data on optimal educational strategies led Dr. Corbridge to become interested in nurse practitioner educational research. She has conducted and published several research studies on the use of simulation in nurse practitioner education and is currently conducting a study on interdisciplinary education as well as examining alternative methods of nurse practitioner student learning. In 2010, Dr. Corbridge was an invited speaker in a NONPF Webinar on simulation.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Corbridge’s scope of leadership in NP education and research has involved active leadership roles in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the Nursing Assembly of the American Lung Association, and the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago. She is a member of the faculty executive committee and is the chair of the advanced practice subcommittee at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Corbridge serves on several University committees as the liaison for the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois and serves as a mentor for nurse practitioner faculty at the University’s various distance campuses, located throughout the state. This experience, combined with her leadership role as an executive member of the national board of directors for the Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization, would provide the experience to help meet the current goals in the strategic plan of NONPF. Dr. Corbridge’s leadership experience and her passion for nurse practitioner education would help NONPF advance quality, influence policy, foster diversity, promote scholarship and strengthen resources.

NONPF has the capacity to be a leader in embracing the interprofessional and intraprofessional diversity to bring stakeholders together to meet the health care needs of the nation. Although NONPF has been very successful in promoting scholarship, the bar has been raised to redefine clinical scholarship in new ways of evidence-based practices including interdisciplinary collaboration and practice and stimulation of knowledge development and utilization to contribute to the science for practice and care.



**Lynne M. Dunphy, PhD, FNP-BC**

Routhier Chair of Practice and Professor of Nursing, University of Rhode Island

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 13

**Nominee’s educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:** Dr. Lynne Dunphy has been active in Nurse Practitioner education since 1995 and has served on the NONPF Board of Directors since 2010. She is seeking a second term on the Board to continue important work begun during her current term of service.

Originally educated as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psych Mental Health Nursing from Hunter-Bellevue in NYC, Dr. Dunphy earned a post-masters certificate FNP at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Her PhD in Nursing is from the University of Miami, and her research area is nursing and medical history,.

Dr. Dunphy oversaw a large Graduate Program at FAU from 2000 – 2006 in the role of Assistant Dean. Currently, she is the Routhier Chair of Practice and Professor of Nursing at the College of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, charged with nursing workforce issues. This has enabled Dr. Dunphy to become involved on the legislative level. She Co-Chaired the RI Senate Commission (2008-9) on Nursing and helped to develop legislation providing a tax-credit for fulltime nursing faculty in the state. She was the PI of a Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration University Center award that established the *Rhode Island Center for Nursing Excellence (RICNE)*. *RICNE* is the nursing lead for the RI Action Coalition charged with the coordination of the IOM Future of Nursing initiative on the state level, as well as the RI nursing workforce center as designated by the National Forum of Nursing Workforce Centers..

Prior to joining the NONPF Board, Dr. Dunphy was active in NONPF as Chair of the former Archives Committee. The Archives Committee provided a presentation and commemoration of the history of NONPF at the organization’s 25 anniversary celebration in Chicago.

Dr. Dunphy has authored a large number of books for the NP audience. Her first book, *Management Guidelines for Adult Nurse Practitioners* (1997 – FA Davis) won an AJN award. She is the co-author of a certification review book for Adult and Family Nurse Practitioners and is the lead author of *Primary Care: The Art and Science of Advanced Practice Nursing*, both of these books now in 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, with 4<sup>th</sup> editions of both in process..

Dr. Dunphy is currently a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Dunphy has served on the NONPF Board for the past two years interfacing at present with the Curricular Leadership Committee, among other responsibilities. She brings a broad depth of leadership skills that currently focus on influencing policy related to the healthcare workforce on the state and national level, as well as expertise in APRN curriculum, certification, and regulation. As health care reform moves forward, APRN issues are more important than ever to achieving meaningful patient care outcomes. Adequate documentation of the impact advanced practice nursing has on the quality of care is essential to obtaining adequate support for advanced practice nursing education. Health care reform provides opportunities for advanced practice nursing and nurse practitioners to take a full-seat at the table. The time is *NOW*.



**Susan Kelly-Weeder, PhD, FNP-BC**

Associate Professor, Boston College Connell School of Nursing

**Number of Years with NONPF: 8**

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience**

**relative to the position:** Dr. Kelly-Weeder, an Associate Professor at Boston College Connell School of Nursing (BCCSON), is an FNP educator, program director, researcher, and mentor. Over the past 17 years, she has led multiple NP education, practice, research, and policy initiatives. Dr. Kelly-Weeder received both her Masters (FNP) and PhD (Nursing and Health Promotion) from the

University of Massachusetts Lowell. As FNP Program Director at BCCSON, Dr. Kelly-Weeder has led one of the top ranked programs in the U.S. In that capacity she has spear-headed extensive curricular changes, including extensive work on the DNP Task Force. In 2011, Dr. Kelly-Weeder received the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses Excellence in Teaching award for her work in preparing FNP students.

Dr. Kelly-Weeder's clinical and research foci have always centered on health behavior change. Her practice-based research to investigate the co-occurrence of binge drinking and binge eating in college-age students is funded by a 3-year NIH grant. She is currently developing web-based interventions to reduce these high risk behaviors on college campuses. As a result of these endeavors, Dr. Kelly-Weeder has been actively involved in university-wide policy initiatives to reduce campus alcohol use.

From her initial introduction to NONPF, Dr. Kelly-Weeder has been dedicated to this organization and has assumed increasingly progressive leadership roles. As a 4-year member of the Conference Planning Committee, she has been involved in content development, speaker selection, and overall planning. As an active member of the Research Special Interest Group, she co-led a 2011 symposium on Defining Scholarship for NP Faculty that focused on the needs of NP faculty preparing for promotion and tenure. She now believes it is time to take on a greater role and give back to the organization. As a Board Member at Large, Dr. Kelly-Weeder will enjoy having the opportunity to further advance the goals of NONPF.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Kelly-Weeder possesses multiple skills and attributes that well position her to be a leading Board Member and advance the goals of NONPF. Her wealth of knowledge and experience in leading a top-ranked FNP program is clear evidence of her ability to create and implement initiatives to advance quality in NP education and practice. As a practicing FNP, Dr. Kelly-Weeder has extensive experience with diverse patient populations and has translated that clinical experience to her work with FNP students. As an educator, her work with minority students and faculty members has increased her understanding of the unique strengths and challenges faced by minorities. Dr. Kelly-Weeder will bring to the position her experience in working with diverse patients, students, and faculty, as well as her commitment to the development of an NP workforce that better reflects our nation's diverse populations. As a Board Member, Dr. Kelly-Weeder will capitalize on these first-hand experiences to influence policy initiatives related to improving access to care for all Americans, as well as advancing NONPF's goal of fostering diversity. As a scholar, Dr. Kelly-Weeder has her own program of research that has been sustained through major grant funding (including her current NIH award). She also mentors new faculty members as they transition to their faculty roles and learn how to balance their research trajectories along with teaching and service priorities. As a Board Member, Dr. Kelly-Weeder will leverage these grantsmanship, publication, and mentoring skills to advance NONPF goals of promoting scholarship and strengthening resources.



**Carmen T. Paniagua, EdD, RN, CPC, ANP, ACNP-BC, APNG, FAANP**

Adult Care NP Program Coordinator, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

**Number of Years with NONPF: 7**

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:**

Dr. Paniagua holds a BSN and MSN degrees in nursing from the University of Puerto Rico. Her academic terminal degree, Doctorate in Higher Education from University of Arkansas at Little Rock, has provided her with a strong foundation in leadership and strategic planning. As

a recent chairperson of the Department of Nursing Practice and the current Adult Acute Care NP Program Coordinator at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, she provides the leadership to meet the department's strategic plan goals and led the revision of the goals to maximize the program/department's productivity. Through her leadership, innovation, and "thinking outside the box," she has a unique perspective and the ability to achieve goals in creative and forward thinking ways. In addition, she completed a post-doctorate fellowship in genetics from the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with George Washington University and a post-doctoral traineeship in Interventional Pain Management.

Dr. Paniagua has received several leadership awards, including: National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties' Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Educator Award; American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' State Award - Excellence for Nurse Practitioner for Arkansas; Fellow and International Society of Nurse Geneticist (ISONG) – ISONG Founders Award for her outstanding service contributions in nursing genetics; and the American College of Nurse Practitioners – Community Service Award. Furthermore, she has been active in the Hispanic community, including serving as Commissioner for the Arkansas Minority Health Commission and maintaining active membership in the National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

Dr. Paniagua was elected to the NONPF Nominating Committee (2009-2011) and served as the committee chairperson responsible for organizing the work of the committee to develop a competitive election slate. She has also been active in the NONPF Acute Care Special Interest Group and was a contributor to the NONPF 2011 publication *Integrating Adult Acute Care Skills and Procedures into Nurse Practitioner Curricula*.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Paniagua subscribes to the current goals in NONPF's strategic plan as well as those in her professional role as a faculty member and active clinician. Her ability to advance quality with her students and within her own practice through identification of health disparities is unparalleled. Her innate ability to influence policy to improve delivery of health care is innovative, unique, and outcome focused. As a Hispanic nurse, she is committed to fostering diversity in education, research, and the service and delivery of health care and serves as a role model in this regard. She promotes scholarship in teaching, research, and service and as a faculty member subscribes to and mentors those to achieve mission integration, a difficult concept to conceptualize and actualize. Lastly, she has an innate ability to review and restructure resources to achieve and maintain efficiency without sacrificing quality.



**Susan D. Schaffer, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC**

Chair of Department of Women's Childrens and Family Nursing and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Florida

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 23

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:**

Dr. Susan Schaffer is Clinical Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Women's, Children's, and Family Nursing at the University of Florida College of Nursing. She earned a PhD from George Mason University in 1995 and MS/FNP from Old Dominion University in 1982.

Dr. Schaffer has been an NP educator for over 23 years. She has served as FNP program director in three academic programs since 1995, developing curricula, teaching advanced practice and role courses, establishing and maintaining program licensure, maintaining a budget, and supervising clinical students and faculty. As department chairperson, she has been involved in strategic planning and administration in both undergraduate and graduate programs since 2008 and chaired the DNP curriculum development committee. She has maintained a clinical practice as a FNP.

Dr. Schaffer has actively participated in NONPF, including presenting numerous times at the annual meeting. She has served as a member of the NONPF Curricular Leadership Committee since 2007 and is currently assigned to work on the DNP Toolkit.

While she was in Virginia, Dr. Schaffer was President of the Virginia Council of NPs (state level council of the VNA), and was President of the Executive Board of the Norfolk Free Clinic. At the UFL Health Science Center, she is currently a member of the hospital Nursing Safety and Quality Council and also a member of the Credentialing Committee which reviews the credentialing packets of advanced practice nurses. She has served as a member of the health science IRB (currently the substitute representative for the college of Nursing). She has published broadly and is practiced in proposal review.

Dr. Schaffer describes NONPF as having been an invaluable resource to her as an advanced practice nurse educator. She recognizes that the annual meetings and publications have been a source of guidance and enlightenment for 23 years and she feels that it is time for her to participate in the organization at a deeper level.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Schaffer's strengths are in the areas of patient care and NP programmatic quality and promoting scholarship through proposal review focusing on outcomes and protection of human subjects.

## **POSITION: NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER (Electing 2)**

**CANDIDATES: Kathryn Blair, Mary Neiheisel,  
Jamesetta Newland, and Patricia White**



**Kathryn A. Blair, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP**

Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

**Number of Years with NONPF: 16**

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:** Dr. Blair received her undergraduate degree in nursing (BSN) from Kent State University 1971, graduate degree (MSN) from University of Colorado Health Sciences Center 1979 with an emphasis as a family nurse practitioner and pediatric nurse practitioner and a PhD from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Human Development and Family Studies in 1992. She is currently Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator at the University of Colorado- Colorado Springs.

Dr Blair has maintained a strong commitment to clinical practice (30 years) and NP education (25 years). Dr. Blair has worked to help define the scholarship of practice as it relates to the NP faculty role and more recently has become involved in the quality of on-line education. Dr. Blair served 2 terms as a NONPF Board Member as the Chair of the Faculty Practice Committee (under the old structure in NONPF) and served as co-chair of the faculty practice committee. Dr. Blair has published and presented on the topic of scholarship of faculty practice. She is active in Sigma Theta Tau, American Academy Nurse Practitioners, Colorado Nurses Association, and Southern Colorado Advanced Practice Nurses Association.

Dr. Blair supports engaging the NONPF membership in active participation beyond the annual conference, helping to identify and unify the goals of the membership and the organization, mentoring new NP faculty, and fostering continued quality NP education via distance educational models.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Blair identifies herself as "a worker bee". When assigned a task she organizes and delegates responsibilities to ensure that the task is completed in a timely fashion. Her commitment to quality NP education and clinical practice is evidenced by her participation in state and national organizations. Dr. Blair recognizes the tough questions for NP education - Are we meeting the standards? Do curricula reflect the national trends in health care? How will the NP role be defined in 10 years from now? How do we encourage and mentor practicing NPs to assume a faculty role? – and would seek to identify new leaders in NONPF to help the organization address them.



**Mary Neiheisel, BSN, MSN, EdD, APRN, FNP-BC, CNS-BC, FAANP**

Professor and Pfizer/Ardoin Endowed Professor, University of Louisiana Lafayette

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 16

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:**

Dr. Mary Neiheisel currently is Professor and Pfizer/Ardoin Endowed Professor University of Louisiana, Lafayette. She has served as the Graduate Nursing Program Director and Director of the Nurse Practitioner Program at ULL. She received her Diploma in Nursing from Baptist Memorial School of Nursing and San Antonio College, her BSN from Incarnate Word College (now The University of the Incarnate Word), her MSN from the University of Colorado, her EdD from Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, a Family NP post-master's certificate from Midwestern State University, and Adult and Gerontological post-master's certificates from the University of Northern Kentucky.

Since joining NONPF in 1996, Dr. Neiheisel has been an active contributor to advance the work of the organization. In 2002, she established the NONPF Outstanding Poster Award in collaboration with Advanced Practice Education Associates as a strategy to recognize the important work presented in poster format at the annual meeting. She continues to refine the award recognition through her role on the NONPF Member Resources Committee. She has authored contributions to many of NONPF publications, including A Handbook for Quality Meetings, Mentoring: Ensuring the Future of NP Education, Scholarship and Career Development: Strategies for Success, and Partners in NP Education: A Preceptor Manual for NP Programs, Faculty, Preceptors, and Students. From 2004-2006, she was the appointed NONPF liaison to the National Primary Care Advisory Board (2004-06) for the National Primary Care Week. Dr. Neiheisel is very active in the Distance Learning SIG and has served for many years on the Annual Conference Committee and as an abstract reviewer. She has also participated in other standing committees of the organization.

Dr. Neiheisel has been recognized widely at the national, state, and local levels for her leadership and contributions to NP practice and education. In 2009, she received the Friend of NONPF award for the extensive work she has done within the organization to advance quality NP education. She is the only recipient from nursing at ULL within the 20th Century to receive the Distinguished Professor Award and also served as Secretary of the Faculty Senate (2005-2007). She is past president of the Rotary Club of Lafayette, received the Rotarian of the Year award in 2002, and received the Women who Mean Business Award in 2008. Also in 2008, she received the Women of Achievement Award from the Zonta Club of Lafayette. She is serving (2009-2013) on the Region IV-Acadiana Area Human Services Board, was elected Secretary twice, and is the present Secretary. In 2006, she was recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and is an active member, serving on the Selections Committee and as Chair of the FAANP Forum, the quarterly international newsletter for FAANP.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Over the 16 years of her active engagement in the organization, Dr. Neiheisel has demonstrated outstanding loyalty to NONPF, its mission, and to advancing its goals. She believes in the need for diversity, quality, and high standards in nurse practitioner education. She participates regularly in the NONPF Annual Meeting both as a presenter and committee member, including serving as organizer of the APEA Outstanding Poster Award that she founded in 2002. She has served on the Member Resources Committee (and formerly Membership Committee) for 14 years. Participated in NONPF meetings and supported goals and mission for 14 years. Through all her work in NONPF and active participation in the annual meeting, she is very familiar with the strategic initiatives of the organization and the potential leaders within the organization who can help to advance NONPF's goals through elected positions.



**Jamesetta Newland, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, DNP NAP**

Clinical Associate Professor, New York University

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 15

**Nominee's educational background, leadership roles, and experience**

**relative to the position:** Dr. Jamie Newland is a Clinical Associate Professor at the New York University College of Nursing.

Dr. Newland's earned degrees have all been in nursing, with a bachelor's from Gustavus Adolphus College, a master's from Pace University with preparation as a family nurse practitioner, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. She also completed a post-master's certificate in adult teaching at the University of Pennsylvania. After years of critical care experience as a RN, she has worked as an NP in primary care settings within academia and still maintain an active clinical practice two days a week the NYU Nursing Faculty Practice.

Dr. Newland has demonstrated leadership skills in varied positions, as President of the Patient Education Committee at the local American Cancer Society and member of other select community boards, director of a multi-site nurse-managed primary care center, past member of the NONPF Board of Directors, international consultant on nurse practitioner education and practice, a recognized leader in NP publishing as editor-in-chief of The Nurse Practitioner journal, and currently as the inaugural director of the DNP Program at NYU. These positions have demanded vision, focus, strategic goal setting and financial planning, resourcefulness, organization and flexibility, human resources management, autonomy and teamwork, and excellent communication skills.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. Newland is very familiar with the leadership model for NONPF and the current goals in NONPF's strategic plan. She has worked on various committees during her tenure with NONPF:

- member of the initial diversity task force
- ongoing membership activities that include recruitment and retention of members and enhanced member resources
- conference abstract reviewer, presenter, and session moderator
- contributor to NONPF newsletter and other NONPF publications
- member of the Board of Directors for two terms, 2002-2004, 2004-2006
- member of two SIGs – academic health centers and international
- current faculty position blends roles of administrator, instructor, mentor, clinician, and preceptor, which permits her to view NONPF initiatives from multiple perspectives
- advocate for dissemination of information from NONPF
- participant in all NONPF campaigns

Dr. Newland understands the organizational structure and needs of NONPF. She stays informed about advanced nursing practice (and particularly NP) issues in the larger professional community and in the public's view. She is well positioned to seek the most appropriate candidates to run for office in NONPF.



**Patricia White, PhD, ANP-BC**

Professor, Simmons College

**Number of Years with NONPF:** 20

**Nominee's education background, leadership roles, and experience relative to the position:** Patricia White PhD, ANP-BC, has been teaching in the Nursing Programs at Simmons since 1987. She received her B.S. and M.S. in Nursing from

Boston College and completed her PhD in Nursing at the University of Rhode Island. She has maintained an ongoing clinical practice as a nurse practitioner since 1983 and currently practices in primary care and in a nurse practitioner owned home care practice. She teaches primarily in the Graduate Program with responsibilities teaching adult and geriatric content in the FNP program. In addition, she has been teaching in the undergraduate research course and is clinical faculty in the community health nursing course. Her most recent teaching includes the Ethics and Legal Course for DNP program and the DNP capstone development courses.

Her research interests include the exploration of nurse practitioner practice and issues related to end of life care. Since 2005, she has worked with a number of Masters Students in research on the use of advanced directives in planning end of life care investigating patients', families' and nurse practitioners' perspectives. She has published her research on NP practice with clients who are grieving and has an upcoming article based on research of family perspectives on end of life care. She has also collaborated as a DNP capstone advisor with her colleague Julie Steller on investigating the practice of Romanian nurses in providing end of life care. She has written and presented on the topics of clinical consultation, polypharmacy, ethics and bereavement.

Additional research interests include working with the learning collaborative (LCANE) along with her Simmons colleague, Janet Rico and graduate nursing faculty from Yale University and University of Massachusetts in Worcester investigating best teaching practices and learning outcomes of direct entry accelerated students in nurse practitioner programs. She has co-presented these findings with her LCANE colleagues at NONPF and CANS and has an upcoming article in press. She is also collaborating with her Simmons DNP colleagues on the evaluation of the DNP program and has co-presented findings at AACN, NONPF and Drexel. She is active in NONPF on the faculty development committee, and is a member of MCNP where she is involved in the legislative committee. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center in Buxton, Maine.

**Unique qualities and strengths the Nominee would bring to the position:** Dr. White is anxious, at this stage of her career, to bring her experience as a long time educator and practicing NP to the Nominating Committee of NONPF. She feels that she has been so well served and mentored in her roles over the years by the leadership and dedication of NONPF members and wants to do the same for future NP educators who will shape our future. She feels particularly poised to assist in recruiting younger members to serve actively in the organization and to bring her particular interest and research in the accelerated NP students, who are the fastest growing number of advanced practice nurses entering our profession. She would be honored to serve NONPF as a member of the Nominating Committee.