

Candidates for NCAPA Board of Directors and Nominating Committee Member-at-Large
Terms begin January 1, 2017

President-Elect (1 position): [Samantha Rogers](#)

Director-at-Large (2 Positions): [Christina Beard](#)

Vice President (1 position): [Detra Chambers](#)

[John Cain](#)

[Alisha DeTroye](#)

[Tanya Darrow](#)

Secretary (1 position): [Linda Sekhon](#)

[Kondie Lykins](#)

[April Stouder](#)

[Elyse Watkins](#)

Nominating Committee Member (1 Position):

[Meg Beal](#)

[Tia Oliveri](#)

President-Elect: 1 year term, followed by 1 year as President, and 1 year as Past-President



Samantha D. Rogers, MMS, PA-C

I am asking for your support to serve our State Academy as your President-Elect. Based on my leadership experience, passion for the profession, and love of North Carolina, I believe that I am equipped to take on this role. I believe in the future of our state academy and am committed to its continued success. I am also committed to safeguarding the home of the PA profession and recognize the gift that we have to practice medicine in North Carolina. I treasure our roots, and have high hopes for our bright future.

I have enjoyed my current role serving on the NCAPA Board of Directors as Vice President. Prior to my VP term, I served in the role of Director at Large on the Board. I have been a faithful and active member of the Governance Task Force, a group who has been working for over 2 years to revise NCAPA's Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. Through this taskforce I work with other members to bring our organization up to date and current for the changing times we live and work in. I am an active member of the Student Affairs Committee and past chair. I spearheaded the effort to create a video to highlight our profession in NC, the Stead Center, and to promote membership in NCAPA. This video received national recognition. This year I added the Continuing Education committee, specifically Education Development Panel, to my responsibilities. With the ongoing dialogue regarding how our CME requirements continue to change, I recognize the imperative nature of proactive planning for our members.

I am a Past President of the Piedmont Association of PAs (PAPA), a position I held for 3 years. PAPA holds an Annual Fall Seminar which attracts more than 120 practicing PAs from across our state. We have experienced tremendous success with this event for many years now, thanks to the hard work and leadership of our faithful long time members. I am thankful to be a part of such a thriving organization.

On a national level, I have served as one of your state representatives to the AAPA House of Delegates for the past 5 years. I have also served on a Reference Committee for the past 4 years. This allows me to be keenly aware of current issues facing PAs and the profession. This experience has been extremely valuable to my development as a leader, an innovator, and a team player.

I am a hard worker, reliable, and extremely disciplined. I also believe that the best work is done as a team when all members contribute to the process by capitalizing on his/her strengths. I am committed to serving our profession and feel strongly that at this time; I am poised to serve North Carolina as your State Academy President-Elect. If you agree, I ask for your vote. Thank you for your consideration.

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[Two Candidates for Vice President: 2 year term, one open position](#)



Detra Chambers, PA-C

My name is Detra Chambers and I have been an active member of the NCAPA since my first year as a PA student. Initially, I became involved with NCAPA after attending AAPA Capitol Connection (now AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit) with the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) in 2010. During the three days that we spent in Washington, D.C., I learned about the legislative process, how a bill becomes a law, and how to effectively communicate a talking point to my local legislator. I had no idea of the impact that those three days would have. In hindsight, they were the launching pad for my future passion for leadership roles within the profession that I am grateful to be a part of.

As a young clinician in a relatively young profession, I feel that it is important to be engaged in shaping the future of PA practice. As we all know, North Carolina is a phenomenal state to practice as a PA. The groundwork that was laid by our predecessors has provided so many opportunities and opened so many doors for PAs to practice to the fullest extent of our training and licensure. Understanding this background has motivated me to continue my involvement within the Academy so that this remains true for generations of North Carolina PAs to come. After joining GAC as a student, I remained an active member of the committee for several more years before accepting the title of co-chair in 2015. I have seen first-hand how the combined dedication of many can lead to large victories, such as how NCAPA successfully petitioned the North Carolina Medical Board for a permanent PA seat and HB 724 was passed in August 2015. Yet, there is still work that can, and should, be done.

In the past, I have served on the Board of Directors as Secretary (2013- 2014) and Director-at-Large (2015). I have worked on several task forces that have helped to bring about substantial changes to the Academy, including the currently active Governance Task Force, which is responsible for reviewing and updating the NCAPA Bylaws and Policy and Procedure manual. Engaging in these activities continues to sharpen my leadership abilities; but they also keep me grounded in the concept of teamwork.

Through every role that I have played within the NCAPA, a solid foundation has been laid to prepare me for the next step. I would like to continue bringing the thoughts, perspectives and skills that I have developed over the past six years, and to build upon them as Vice President of NCAPA. I would like to see more North Carolina PAs involved with the Academy, particularly recent graduates and student members. As Vice President, not only will I continue to advocate for North Carolina PAs to be integrated into all aspects of healthcare, but I will work to reinvigorate an enthusiasm for patient advocacy and patient care that led us all to seek out a PA education and that has kept us practicing in this beautiful state for so long.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the PA community in this capacity and appreciate your vote in support!

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[Alisha DeTroye MMS, PA-C](#)

I am honored to have been nominated for a position on the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants Board of Directors. If elected, I feel I will bring experience, leadership and enthusiasm to my role as Vice President.

I have previously served on the Board of Directors for three terms from 2009-2012 and 2014-2015. Although not seated on the board this year, I have continued to stay involved as chair of the Regional Chapters committee. If elected I will continue to strive to meet the needs of PAs locally. I will work to ensure that the regional chapters continue to thrive and that each region has a voice for its members. I also participate on the Educational Development Panel work group which is strategically planning to bring more events to your local areas.

Finally as a Board member I plan to continue to advocate for our profession. I believe the NCAPA has a mission to represent NC physician assistants and ensure that our practice rights are protected on the state and national level. I have been active in the AAPA House of Delegates as a North Carolina delegate for the past 4 years. This is a critical time in the history of our profession as we celebrate 50 years of our profession. There are potential significant changes to our certification and credentialing process as well as major changes and opportunities for PAs in health care reform. I want to advocate on your behalf and keep you informed. In addition to my involvement, I hope to empower other PAs to also get involved.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve you as a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. I look forward to working with each of you to help our state academy meet your expectations as well as continue to be a model of excellence for other professional organizations. I appreciate your consideration for me for this position.

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Secretary: 2-year term



Linda Jean Sekhon, PA-C

It is with great pride that I declare my candidacy for the Secretary of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA) Board of Directors. Having served in this capacity over the past two years, I welcome the opportunity to continue in this role on behalf of the NCAPA membership. The future of the NCAPA and our professional practice in North Carolina rest in the hands of its members, and I appreciate you taking time to consider my candidacy.

I recognized early in my career the importance of professional leadership and I find great joy in giving back to a profession that has been so good to me. I have been privileged to serve in numerous PA leadership positions throughout my career at both the State and National levels. Early on I served as the Vice President for the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants. Several years later I had the privilege of serving the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants (PSPA) as their President in addition to numerous other Board of Director and Committee Chair positions. Each of these activities has taught me the value of negotiation and collaboration balanced with sound decision making. Prior to moving to the great state of North Carolina, I was honored with the Michael J. Habeck Lifetime Achievement Award for sustained and exceptional service to the PSPA.

At a national level I served on various committees with the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). I served on the AAPA House of Delegates since 2005 in various capacities, including reference committees, chief delegate, and as a delegate from North Carolina. I am a past member of the Standing Rules Committee and the current Chair of the AAPA Governance Commission and Elections Committee. In 2009 I was recognized by the AAPA in their "Leadership Focus" which features exemplary PAs who participate in "unique leadership roles, making a difference in their communities, work setting and the lives of others" and was specifically recognized for leadership excellence in community volunteer service. I have also had the opportunity to serve on several national Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) workgroups and committees.

As a long time professional leader and a proud member of the NCAPA it has been a privilege to serve on the Governmental Affairs Committee, the House of Delegates, the Professional Development Review Panel, and as Secretary over the past several years. Having moved to North Carolina in 2012, I recognized immediately that I joined a very strong and elite group of PA professionals. When I meet prospective students and interact with other PA educators and clinicians I am consistently reminded of the proud tradition of our profession in North Carolina. I look at the many "NCAPA Firsts" listed on our website, and am reminded that this success comes from years of hard work and dedication from NCAPA members and state leaders.

My service to the NCAPA has provided me with insight into the needs of our members. As an outgrowth of my years of leadership experiences, I have had a very small hand in helping to shape the direction of our profession which has prepared me to meet the challenges facing PA practice in our state. I have learned that communication will be of the utmost importance. We will need to reach out to members and encourage communication amongst leaders, members, and future PAs. It will be imperative to encourage membership involvement and engagement so that we can continue to maintain the profession's great reputation in this state.

I welcome the opportunity to serve our Academy and ask for your support. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

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[Six Candidates for Director-at-Large: Two-year terms, 2 open positions](#)



Christina P. Beard, MPAS, PA-C

My name is Christina Beard, and I am running for the NCAPA Director-at-Large position. I have worked as a physician assistant (PA) in North Carolina for over 13 years, and my career as a PA has demonstrated the diversity of options in our profession. My clinical practice began in inpatient Gastroenterology, and I gradually transitioned into PA education in 2010. As an educator, my clinical practice time has been limited to one day per week, but has ranged from urgent care, student health, to ophthalmology. I feel that education is my calling through which I have the responsibility and opportunity to train the next generation of physician assistants.

For the past five years, I have served as program director at the Methodist University PA Program (MUPAP) in Fayetteville. Prior to serving as program director, my first full-time position in the program was as clinical coordinator. In this position, I established international clinical rotations for students in Belize, Africa, Ecuador and Mexico. International opportunities have provided an eye-opening, humbling, and maybe, once-in-a-lifetime clinical experience for many of our students.

As the desire to diversify the profession has increased, our program has taken strides to meet this demand; I was named principal investigator in a collaborative effort for a grant the program received through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in July 2016. The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) allows the program to award scholarships to PA students (totaling up to \$60,000 per recipient) who are underrepresented minorities (URM)) and/or from socioeconomic disadvantaged backgrounds. The SDS program will allow us to recruit students from counties with limited access to healthcare, and who are URM and/or have demonstrated economic or environmental disadvantages. We will prepare scholarship recipients for the challenges associated with working in medically underserved areas, and will ultimately encourage them to return to their communities, practice in primary care, and be a mentor the young people who may be considering a career in medicine.

Finally, as a PA educator, I have been active at the national, state and community levels with the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), NCAPA, and in NCAPA's Fayetteville Regional Chapter "FAYPA." Early on, I was a member of the PAEA Clinical Education Committee Subcommittee on International Rotations. Our work included disseminating information about how to establish and ensure successful rotations abroad. I have served on NCAPA's Professional Development Review Panel (PDRP) committee for the winter recertification and summer conferences. I currently serve as vice-president of the FAYPA and have served as president in the past. I also work to educate young people about the PA profession by speaking to elementary, middle and high school groups about PA school and the importance of education. Additionally, I have spoken to various groups such as the Rotary, Kiwanis Club, and Fayetteville women's leadership groups to educate the general public about the PA profession. In conclusion, I am a lifelong resident of North Carolina and am a strong advocate for our state being one of the best states to practice as a PA. My passion is educating students to become excellent providers and to help alleviate healthcare shortages, particularly in rural N.C. It is my goal as a program director to encourage current PAs to give back to the profession by being active in the education of the next generation of providers. I am excited about the opportunity to represent my colleagues and future colleagues in the Director-at-Large position with NCAPA. Thank you for considering my candidacy. If you wish to contact me, my e-mail is cbeard@methodist.edu.

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John Cain, MSPAS, PA-C

Representing one of the Tar Heel State's most prominent group of healthcare providers, the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA) is described as the voice of physician assistants across the state. And, I am one such North Carolina-based PA whose voice is heard much more loudly, thanks to the collective efforts of NCAPA.

However, this has not always been the case for me as I began my career in Kentucky at a time when numerous barriers to PA practice were in place, and I quickly learned the shortcomings of not having a powerful voice to represent our profession. As a new PA graduate of the University of Kentucky, I followed my heart to the Appalachian hills of the state to work in family medicine at a federally qualified health center – whose federal funding was used to provide affordable access to care for the uninsured. After a year of practice, my supervising physician left the rural clinic, leaving me with only 12 of the 18 months of direct supervision as required by Kentucky Revised Statutes at the time. At that point, I transitioned into emergency medicine at a rural, Level 2 trauma center, where my ability to appropriately manage acute pain was hindered by a PA's lack of prescriptive authority for controlled substances – a statute still in place in the Bluegrass State. And, when I found myself back in the outpatient setting – this time working in my current field of endocrinology – not only did my inability to prescribe testosterone affect my practice but also the then-present statute requiring 100% co-signature by my supervising physician. Throughout these struggles, I used my singular voice to spur change by professional associations, legislators, practice administrators, family and friends. As various bills landed in the state's General Assembly, I took to social media and e-mail to champion advocacy efforts.

Although progress has been made in Kentucky since I began practice, I realized in 2014 it was time to come "home" to where my profession began and where groups such as NCAPA have paved the legislative "yellow brick road" to optimal PA practice. Now, two years later, I am free of the barriers which previously plagued my practice and have come to understand and appreciate the role NCAPA plays in our daily life as a physician assistant. That's why I feel it is time for me to give back to the organization and its leaders whose efforts helped us get where we are today.

My desire to represent my colleagues across North Carolina as a Director-at-Large for NCAPA is also rooted in my passion for the continued advancement of the PA profession – at this critical time in healthcare reform when the value and quality of the care we provide is further moving us to the forefront. Through my involvement with the Piedmont Association of Physician Assistants, I see firsthand the diversity in not only our people but also our practice. However, despite this diversity, as a whole, we share many commonalities - a desire for a rewarding career, opportunities to further our efforts as life-long learners, and support for evidence based certification requirements that do not negatively impact patient care. It is for these commonalities, and others I would gather over the two-year term, that I would lend forth my voice if elected.

I appreciate your support and confidence in me as I seek the position as Director-at-Large.

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Tanya Darrow, PA-C

My name is Tanya Darrow, and I am both humbled and honored to be nominated for one of the Director-at-Large positions on our Board. Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Government Affairs Committee and have learned the importance of keeping abreast of changes in legislation to keep our profession active and thriving. With this experience, I have also gained a desire to become more involved with the NCAPA in our efforts to work with legislation to ensure we are practicing medicine to our greatest potential.

Currently, I live in the rural county of Vance and work in a large, rural Family Medicine practice. I've been at the same practice since graduating from ECU in 2007. Daily I am educating the community and patients of the importance of our role in medicine and see first hand the importance of not only maintaining our standards in our profession, but also carrying those standards of care and perception of our roles as clinicians into the future of medicine. By allowing me to serve on the Board, I plan to continue to work with other members to help allow for our service as one of the most adaptable and evolutionary medical professions ever to be created.

In addition to working with the NCAPA, I have also served as a Community Practitioner with the North Carolina Medical Society and have served in some local community events involving healthcare initiatives in Henderson, NC.

Thank you for considering me for this position, and I look forward to continued service to the Academy.

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Kondie Lykins, PA-C

My name is Kondie Lykins and I am running for Director at Large on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. As a former manager in business I know the tedium of a day full of meetings and memos. Now, as a new PA, I know the joy of working each day with patients to improve their health and quality of life. I now know what it means to make a difference at work. I love this profession!

In order to do the most good and to garner the most satisfaction from our work we must protect the privileges we have to practice according to our training by being active participants at the table with the Medical Board, the Legislature, and the public. We must continue to foster our good relationship with the Medical Board by demonstrating our value and integrity in our individual spheres instead of institutionally created hurdles to certification. We must, as an organization, provide the tools for PA's to continue our education and development thru workshops, conferences, online resources, and other means yet to be discovered and implemented. We must promote who we are and what we have to offer to those PA's who practice in our state but are not yet part of NCAPA. We must promote who we are and what we have to offer to the patients of North Carolina. We must ensure the strong future of our profession by partnering with the educational institutions of our state and provide the training opportunities our current and future students need.

These are lofty objectives but they are vital for the health of our profession in our day-to-day practice. Even though we enjoy a fantastic work environment in North Carolina these privileges can be lost through apathy and inaction. As a PA student, I was honored to have been a member of the Board of Directors and participate with and learn from both seasoned leaders and new PA's. During my two years as a student member on the Board a new promotional online video was planned and created, a PA only seat on the NC Medical Board was created, and other steps were made to advance us towards the goal of making North Carolina an even greater place to practice medicine as a PA. As a current member of the Governance Task Force I have been able to take part in the review of the bylaws, policies, and procedures of the NCAPA to ensure we remain current and relevant in the lives of PA's in our state.

At the end of 2015 my term on the Board of Directors ended and I have used that time to establish my practice of medicine while at the same time remaining active on the Governance Task Force. I have also used this season to spend time with my family as I have been a student for the last few years. We have enjoyed camping, swimming, bowling, 5k races, and other activities including a 50 mile hike in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park with my three teenage sons. My family and I are preparing to welcome our 8th child later this summer. These activities are possible because of the flexibility that I have as a practicing PA.

Please vote for me for Director at Large. I will continue to work with the NCAPA and our partners to ensure North Carolina, the birth place of our profession, remains a wonderful place to practice as a PA.

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April Stouder, MHS, PA-C

My name is April Stouder and I am seeking your support for a second term as Director-at-Large on the NCAPA Board of Directors. I have served the Academy for the past 2 years as a Board member, and am chair of the Educational Development Panel subcommittee, which is responsible for developing online and regional CME offerings such as the Joint Injection Workshop. For over 4 years, I served on the Professional Development Review Panel, which ensures the quality of our CME offerings at our two conferences. As I worked with fellow committee members over the years, my interest in further service within the Academy grew. The Director-at-Large position has allowed me to serve NCAPA, as well as my fellow physician assistant (PA) colleagues across the state, in an expanded capacity and I'm grateful for the opportunity.

I have been a practicing PA in North Carolina and NCAPA member since 2002. After graduating from PA school in 2000, I worked clinically in Virginia and Indiana and quickly realized what a positive and supportive environment North Carolina is for PAs in terms of practice legislation, professional respect from medical colleagues and patient acceptance of PA clinical care. We have the NCAPA and strong leadership from our fellow PAs to thank for that, and it is not something I have ever taken for granted in my clinical work here. I'm very proud to be a PA, and especially proud to serve North Carolinians!

I have worked clinically in adult hematology and oncology for most of my career, and particularly enjoy working with rural and underserved patients. I joined the faculty at the Duke University Physician Assistant Program in 2009, and continue to work in oncology in rural North Carolina. My academic role focuses on the clinical year curriculum, establishing quality clinical training sites and helping to ensure that our future PAs are ready to care for patients. It definitely takes a village to train medical learners, and I very much value the contributions of clinical preceptors across the state!

As a board member, I have advocated on behalf of PAs in North Carolina to ensure our practice laws and regulations reflect our abilities and that our profession remains highly visible in a changing healthcare landscape, both locally and nationally. I participated in the PA Day event at the General Assembly in June 2016, wearing my white coat and talking with legislators about the vital role PAs play in meeting the healthcare needs of our state residents.

I am passionate about education and professional development for PAs and medical learners. Keeping PAs abreast of changes that might affect their clinical practice, providing quality CME opportunities, and responding to the informational needs of the constituency remain my top educational priorities.

NCAPA has been a tremendous resource to me as a practicing PA, and I am seeking an opportunity to be a resource for you as well. I appreciate your consideration as you cast your vote for Director-at-Large.

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Elyse Watkins, PA-C

My name is Elyse Watkins, and I am running for a Director-at-Large position within the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. I have been a PA since 1993, but moved to North Carolina in 2014. Since my arrival in the birthplace of our profession, I have sought leadership opportunities within North Carolina. I am completing the North Carolina Medical Society's Leadership College, where I have gained valuable insight about legislative issues, our relationship with physicians across the state, and how to advocate for our profession.

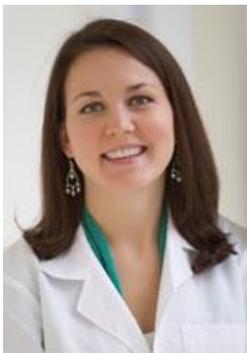
I have spoken at several state CME conferences and held leadership positions within a state chapter when I lived elsewhere. I currently teach at a PA program in the Piedmont Triad and still work clinically, so I have a good sense about the pulse of PA education and other factors affecting our profession locally and nationally.

If elected to represent you on the Board, I will tirelessly promote our profession. I believe that PAs can best serve our patients when we are able utilize our clinical skills to practice at the top of our license. I also believe that PAs are essential to continue to meet the demands of our state, and are well-positioned to take on greater responsibilities in healthcare leadership.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas, please do not hesitate to email me at elysewatkins.five@gmail.com. Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I look forward to representing you.

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Two Candidates for Nominating Committee Member-at-Large, 2-year term, one open position



Meg Beal, PA-C

My name is Meg Beal and I am running for a position on the Nominating Committee as a Member-at-Large. I have been a PA in North Carolina for 5 years and recently transitioned from full-time primary care clinical practice to a dual role as a faculty member at the new University of North Carolina Physician Assistant Program while continuing to practice internal medicine.

As a more recent graduate of PA school at Wake Forest University and a junior faculty member at a state institution, I bring a unique perspective and am eager to become involved with our state Physician Assistant organization. I have called North Carolina home for over 15 years, graduated from college and PA school in this state, and am working to provide care for and train future practitioners for the citizens of this state. The future of our profession, particularly in North Carolina, is incredibly important to me.

I currently serve on the Advanced Practice Provider Advisory Council for the UNC Medical Center and am proud to represent our profession in this capacity. Advocating for PAs within our institution is a great privilege, and I am excited for the opportunity to expand this advocacy on behalf of all North Carolina PAs.

Our state has been at the forefront of PA practice and I would be honored to foster its leadership further. As a member of the Nominating Committee I would be able to help ensure that our state organization continues to thrive by identifying excellent candidates to promote and lead the NCAPA.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the Nominating Committee. My email address is meg_beal@med.unc.edu if I can provide you with any additional information.

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Tia Oliveri, MMS, PA-C

My name is Tia L. Oliveri and I am honored to accept nomination and declare my candidacy for the At-Large Nominating Committee Member position. I am a first-generation college graduate receiving my Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude, in Nuclear Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia in 2007. As an undergraduate, I minored in Spanish and have volunteered in a combination of free Latino clinics and migrant farmworker camps for over 10 years.

In May of 2013, I completed my Masters of Medical Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. I have lived in NC since 2011. As a PA student, I served as a state representative for the House of Delegates during the 2011 AAPA conference in Toronto, Canada. I also attended the 2011 IMPACT conference in Washington, DC, and met with NC state representatives. During that time, I realized the importance of advocacy for the profession and have maintained active membership in NCAPA and AAPA since that time.

I am a Board Certified Physician Assistant with prior experience in Emergency, Family medicine, and Gastroenterology. I have found my passion working with underserved populations in Obstetrics & Gynecology. I currently practice at the Guilford County Health Department, Maternity Services, and previously worked as a solo Women's Health provider in the Catawba County Health Department system.

I have remained an active member of the PA profession, involved in PAPA, a regional chapter of NCAPA, since my acceptance into the Wake Forest PA program in 2011. As a student, I was an active member of the WFUPA Cultural Diversity Committee, where I hosted activities that taught students medical Spanish, cultural awareness, and consideration of special patient populations. I continue to support this passion for diversity through membership in the PAs for Latino Health organization. In addition, I currently serve as a mentor for up to 4 PA students a year through my involvement in the student mentorship program through PAPA. This winter, I plan to pursue a D.H.Sc through Nova Southeastern University, with an emphasis in global health. I am also actively seeking opportunities to partner with the CDC on special projects to help control emerging pandemics such as the Zika virus.

As a NCAPA At-Large Nominating Committee Member, I will focus on identifying PA leaders that will best represent the profession through increased awareness and advocacy for PA practice in NC. Thank you for your thoughtful review of my platform statement and your kind consideration of my candidacy for this position.

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