

From the Director

By: Terri Schmitt PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP

Nothing brings reflection for me like the end of the year. It is a time to laugh, cry, embrace the best, and look for opportunities to be better. In reflection, the last 12 months at NPACE have been incredible in many ways. Some of my most fond memories of this past year include

- Being terrified that returning to in-person conferences was not going to work, especially after the January & February Omicron outbreaks and airline staffing shortages.
- Sitting in the front row in Orlando, the first in-person conference in 2 years, to hear Wendy Wright and Sally Miller inspire and provide some of the best in-person education.
- Navigating the new landscape of on-demand learning needs of NPs in light of telehealth needs, reduction in many NPs continuing education funds, and trying to meet NPs anywhere they were.
- Forces of nature that I have learned to embrace such as a power outage in an entire event space on the first day for several hours or thunderstorms preventing speakers from arriving on time.
- Asking myself, “How much water do I drink in a day?” after sitting in Dr. Mimi Secor’s session in our February virtual conference.
- Dancing in the aisles with Dr. Patsy Sulak in California.
- Evaluating my self-care with Dr. Edward-Phillips in Cape Cod.
- Considering my mental resilience with Jay Gupta.
- Getting to read the Massachusetts state NP week proclamation with NPACE board member Dr. Karen Windle in Boston.
- Learning! I learned about benzodiazepines from Dr. Josh Hamilton, opioid prescribing from Dr. Brett Snodgrass, hypertension updates from past AANP president Dr. Angela Golden, arrhythmias from Jen Carlquest, suturing techniques and radiology reading from Dr. Chris Hemmer... the list goes on and on. My brain and heart are so full!
- Our first full-day workshop was by Jay Gupta, a pharmacist and a non-profit leader, teaching yoga techniques that providers can use in their practice and offering CE for this essential education. I am happy that NPACE is offering a yoga workshop again at our Denver 2023 Conference.
- Being moved to tears by attendees and their stories of what the past two years have been like for them and how important it was to come, have their professional cup filled, and connect.
- Using the free wellness courses in our Learning Center almost weekly and benefiting myself from them.
- Being able to give away much-needed learning through grant funding and other efforts in over 3,000 CE units in the past year.
- The pride felt at a 2-year project coming to fruition with NONPF and working closely with Dr. Mary Beth Bigley. NPACE was able to directly serve the needs of novice nurse educators and their students through the New Faculty Development Program.
- Being moved by speakers like Dr. Patsy Sulak and Dr. Sheldon Fields.
- Watching the internal staff at NPACE grow themselves and use their 2022 knowledge to build an even better NPACE for 2023.

Overall, I am beyond lucky to have been here for every moment. This year and the work of NPACE have changed me for the better. I hope you can join us and be a part of the memories we make in 2023!

Happy New Year!