

Nickolaus (Nick) Escobedo DNP, RN, OCN, NE-BC

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I am grateful for the opportunity to submit my nomination for the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) Board of Directors, Region 7. I am a proud nurse leader with over 12 years of progressive experience in various practice settings across the care continuum.

I have been employed by Houston Methodist for a total of nine years. During his time, I have held various positions including staff nurse, charge nurse, manager, director and currently serve as an associate chief nursing officer (ACNO). In this role I serve as a key executive sponsor for Information Technology and Informatics projects across the Houston Methodist System and leads these initiatives at the Houston Methodist Hospital. I have major responsibilities accounting for the translation of the Houston Methodist Strategic plan for nursing while engaging with nurse leaders at all levels.

I have earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from San Jacinto College in 2010, Master of Science in Nursing from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 2012 and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing in 2019. I am a proud alumnus of the 2015 AONL Nurse Manager Fellowship. I have been an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN) since 2012 and a Nurse Executive-Board Certified since 2015.

I have National board experience as an appointed member, Vice-President and President of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation in partnership with the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). Through these efforts I have been active in advocating and supporting the validation of specialized knowledge in the field of oncology. In various roles I have been able to represent the organization at three National ONS Congress Meetings and was invited as a guest host on a podcast detailing the importance of professional certification as it relates to the ANCC Magnet Program.

At a State and local level, I have been able to participate in the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL) as a member of the Membership Task Force from 2015 through 2016. In 2018 I was invited to take part in the Houston Organization for Nursing Leadership (HONL) revitalization and participate on their board of directors as chair of publicity initiatives. In 2021 I was elected to serve as the HONL President for 2022-2023. In this role I also serve as a representative for the TONL Board of Directors.

I have represented nursing leadership as a speaker and presented at both local and national forums. Specific to AONL, I have presented two Ignite Sessions at AONL Annual Meetings and have had the opportunity to mentor several speakers to help them prepare for their own Ignite Sessions.

On a personal level, I have lived in Houston, Tx for 14 years alongside my husband. We are self-proclaimed "foodies" and routinely take advantage of the diverse culinary scene in Houston. We enjoy hiking, traveling and love a good collaborative board game.

STATEMENTS

1. Statement describing the significant issues facing AONL and potential strategies to address them.

Preparing and supporting a workforce ready for the rapid changes in delivery of healthcare will remain the upmost priority for AONL. Advocating for strategies to prepare all nurses to function as leaders will be paramount. A key strategy will entail championing support of membership in AONL, ensuring nurses and organizations understand the value of the organization. In addition, ensuring targeted marketing efforts and associated fundraising to sustain, grow and innovate the current AONL educational programs and fellowships. Additionally, collaborating as a board and organization to prepare nurse leaders to competently use their voice in advocacy efforts to better serve their community and the profession.

2. Statement describing the applicant's perspective of diversity, equity and inclusion and strategies AONL can take to demonstrate its commitment.

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts celebrate and support individual backgrounds and diverse thoughts with the aim of providing individuals with the opportunity to succeed. Through acknowledgement, learning and support efforts, each individual voice is represented. Ensuring the AONL board and constituents remain inclusive and representative of the voice of nursing by engaging stakeholders at all levels, increasing underrepresented diversity, and serving as an advocate for efforts in anti-racism, anti-bias and related programs are key strategies that should be considered. Additionally, supporting the development and access to these resources to bring these issues to the forefront of nursing.