

INA 2023 LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE & NORTHWEST REGION BOARD LIAISON



Julie Dragstra, EdD, MA, BSN, RN

Northwestern College | Chair/Director Nursing Program
Sioux Center, IA

What activities are you currently involved with or have been in the past related to INA or ANA?

Attended INA conference and presented poster on end-of-life collaboration between education, nurses, and the community. Attended Legislative day several times in person and also virtually. Attended several town-hall INA virtual meetings.

What other professional organizations are you involved with?

Nurse's Christian Fellowship, Iowa League for Nursing, Iowa Organization Nurse Leaders, Iowa Association of Colleges of Nursing

What other elected, appointed offices or community activities relevant to this position have you been involved with?

Served term as president for Iowa Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Part of the INA Covid task force and volunteered to answer calls with the "warm line" phone project during Covid

Please write a statement that indicates your view on issues facing INA. Indicate why you want to serve in this role and why you are best qualified to carry out the duties of this office? This statement will be shared publicly with the membership.

As both a BSN nurse educator and practicing prn Hospice nurse, I see the challenges and rewards of nursing from both an academic and practice perspective. There are obvious issues such as with workforce (staffing), which has led to patients not receiving services at the appropriate level of care, with the backlog to transfer from one care setting to another. There are less obvious issues, such as scope of practice. While all health care providers should be able to practice at the full scope of their certificate or license, a trend is to get workers in the field without adequate training or orientation. For example, while it's great to see the LPN role reentering the workforce in greater numbers, they are not RN's and should not be expected to perform RN roles. Also as higher acuity patients have remained in rural hospitals or nursing homes when transfer beds are not available, nurses are having to perform more critical interventions than typically done. Nurses need to be protected, and have a voice that is heard in regards to safe care standards.

If I have the privilege to serve, I look forward to the opportunity to help bridge the gap between education and practice, to have both students "practice-ready" and the workplace be a welcoming, supportive environment to promote recruitment and retention. Nursing should not be done in a silo, but rather with the support of the team from housekeeping and CNA's to nursing administration. While there are many issues facing nursing, the INA provides a platform to address them with a unified voice and have nursing continue to be one of the top respected professions. Ultimately, I want the profession of nursing be seen as a rewarding career to pursue, and for nurses to feel valued in their roles, no matter the setting, in the provision of quality and safe patient care. Thank you.