

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are so excited and energized after our Leadership Conference last week. We started on Tuesday October 26 with our annual business meeting. President Alyce Ashcraft's opening remarks highlighted some important accomplishments of 2021. The results of the election were reported. Treasurer Janine Overcash provided a Finance report.

Charlene Harrington provided the Day 1 keynote address and left us with a call to action regarding improving care in long term care and other settings for older adults. She shared a plethora of literature to support change in this arena. Attendees will be able to easily access these resources to support their work within the meeting platform. She helped us understand more about how long-term care companies invest and hide their assets.

Eight networking sessions followed where members could engage in dialogue about hot topics related to disruption during the pandemic. Two Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings closed out the first day with lively conversations in both groups.

Elizabeth Beattie started Day 2 with a keynote address that compared Gerontological Nursing in Australia with the United States. It was so interesting to find out where we are alike and where we are different.

Thirty-one new Distinguished Educators in Gerontological Nursing (DEGN) were recognized in a special ceremony. This brings our total number of DEGNs to nearly 200!

The Mary Starke Harper Dialogue with honoree Linda Phillips and interviewer Janet Mentis wrapped up the second day of live events. Johanna Uriri-Glover shared the background of lectureship and the reason we make this annual award recognizing the amazing work of Mary Starke Harper. Dr. Phillips described the trajectory of her career as it pertains to Gerontological Nursing, especially advancing the science and increasing diversity in the field.

The third day started with a Mentoring Panel. Two triads shared their experiences with early, middle, and late career mentoring. We gained a new term from Ann Kolanowski as she shared how she is planning for "Preferment" rather than retirement.

We moved on to four poster flash talks. The top scoring poster presenters had a chance to do mini-presentations of their work.

The conference wrapped up with a Happy Hour – one last chance for networking. All live sessions were recorded and will be available along with the posters and pre-recorded sessions that are also part of the conference. CE requirements can be completed between now and December 31, 2021.

We want to thank all of our speakers, poster presenters, and sponsors for helping us have a successful conference in 2021! Also, a big thanks to Johanna Uriri-Glover and Lori Martin-Plank and the rest of the Leadership Conference Planning Committee for all of their work in the 10 to 11 months prior to the conference to bring you a quality product. Last, but not least, we want to thank our Virtual Inc. team for handling so many technical aspects of the conference from behind the scenes. It truly takes a village to plan and execute an event like this.



Ellarene Sanders PhD, RN
Executive Director