

## **Consideration of Appointment of New Members to the Advisory Committee on Education**

### **Summary of Request:**

Consider the staff recommendation regarding nominations for appointments of new members to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE).

### **Historical Perspective:**

In accordance with Board rule [211.6.\(f\)\(1\)\(B\)](#), ACE advises the Board on education and practice issues that have or may have an impact on the regulation of nursing education in Texas.

Recently, Board staff received a request from Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, CNE, President of the Texas League for Nursing (TLN) and Karen Neighbors, MSN, RN, current TLN representative on ACE, that Alyce Ashcraft, PhD, RN, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, replace Ms. Neighbors as the TLN representative on ACE.

Board Staff also received communication from April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE, President of the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators (TAVNE) that she would be representing TAVNE at large to replace Dr. Betty Sims. Ms. Ernst is already a current member of ACE, representing TAVNE hospital based programs whose nomination was approved by the Board at the April 2015 quarterly Board meeting.

Board staff have reviewed the credentials of both nominees, and concluded they are fully qualified to fulfill the role and responsibilities associated with ACE membership. A summary of Dr. Ashcraft's and Ms. Ernst's qualifications are included in Attachment "A".

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Accept and approve the following nominations for ACE membership:

- Alyce Ashcraft, PhD, RN, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, representing the Texas League for Nursing; and
- April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE, representing the Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators at large.

**ACE Nominee Biographical Summaries**

- Alyce Ashcraft, PhD, RN, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, *representing the TLN* currently serves as Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Nursing at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing. Dr. Ashcraft is an experienced educator, researcher, and practitioner who has held a variety of distinguished positions in academic and practice settings. Her scholarly activities include several grant funded research projects including current research entitled, *Improving Nurse Physician Communication in the Nursing Home*, funded through Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society and the National Gerontological Nursing Association. Dr. Ashcraft has published numerous abstracts, articles and editorials in various national peer reviewed nursing journals. She is a national and international presenter and an active member of several nursing associations and committees. Dr. Ashcraft has received many honors and awards throughout her career, including the 2016 Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.
  
- April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE *representing TAVNE at large*, is the current President-Elect of TAVNE. Ms. Ernst has extensive experience in nursing education, both in faculty and director roles. Currently, she is an independent consultant for nursing education programs and has authored several nursing education program proposals that have been approved by the BON. Ms. Ernst is active in many professional nursing associations and served on the BON DELCs workgroup and the Deferred Disciplinary Action Pilot Program.