2016 NCSBN Annual Meeting - President’s Address Video Transcript
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Event
2016 NCSBN Annual Meeting

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Presenter
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Good morning and welcome once again to the National Council's 38th annual meeting. Once again, we come together to do the important work of this organization. Again, those of you who are attending the annual meeting for the first time, please stand. Okay. And I have an assignment for the rest of you. I want you to take a moment to spot one of these individuals. Turn around and wave, okay. And make a point to introduce yourself and welcome that person to the meeting at some time during the next three days. I vividly recall my first meeting of the Delegate Assembly. It was in Iowa, and the temperature was a hundred and four degrees. And for entertainment, we went to the Iowa State Fair to see the biggest pig. In a hundred and four degrees walking around.

Well, I hope that all of you are as excited to be here as I am. As I prepared for this meeting I thought of this year's theme, Leading Transformation Architects of Nursing Regulation. And I was struck by the substance of these words, Architects Leading Transformation. As you know, an architect plans, designs and oversees construction of buildings. To practice architecture means to provide services in connection with the design and construction of buildings that have as their principle purpose, human use. Professionally, architects make decisions that affect public safety. A building must be structurally sound and based upon a solid foundation. In the architectural profession, technical and environmental knowledge, construction management and an understanding or business are as important as design. However, design is the driving force throughout the project and beyond.

I pondered how like architecture is the work we do as nursing regulators. We must have the technical knowledge of law and other regulations that form the structure within which we operate. We must be aware of the environment and the changes that require us to respond in a reasonable and responsible way. We must manage business systems to provide services that are effective and efficient for licensees and employers.

Now, my niece is an architect and I admire what she sees before a plan for a building or a space is, is before it is even on paper, let alone before the space is created. I'm one of those people who, I need a picture. We had a discussion about how she does her work. We talked about the principle, that shape of a building or object should be primarily based upon its intended function or purpose. The principle of form follows function which is associated with modernist architecture. Dawn says she starts
with, she starts any project with conversation with the client. As to what they want to do in the space, not what they want the space to look like. The same same principle applies to nursing regulation. We must design nursing regulation that is focused on its function. That is, public safety. But we must be thoughtful and base the regulation on a solid foundation. That is, it must be evidence based. The research and data analysis that we do at the National Counsel is vital to that end. All of these principles apply to the work of this organization. Later this week, you as delegates, will vote on the strategic initiatives for 2017 through 2019.

Like an architectural plan, the strategic plan is the drawing, specifications, calculations and time planning for what we will accomplish in the next three years. It will drive us forward and towards our desired outcomes. Recognizing the fast pace of change occurring in the environment, we need to lead in transforming nursing regulation for the digital world. We need to propose regulatory solutions that are responsive and innovative and that are informed by a larger and wider national and global view. Our office in Washington, D.C. has clearly put us at the table in policy development. We are recognized as the authority on nursing regulation and have been invited to policy discussions at the White House and the National Academy of Science.

Change can be challenging, it can be bittersweet, it can be exciting and clearly what we choose to make of it. It is indeed a time of change and opportunity. We need to embrace our vision to advance regulatory excellence worldwide. While we are here to do the important business of this organization I hope you will engage in conversation with your colleagues to envision how we as an organization can lead in transforming regulation. That is, be responsive to change through thoughtful planning.

I have one comment that I want to add to my remarks today regarding change. And it was a decision David and I had to make rather quickly prior to the start of the first session. And that is that Colleen came to us to say, "I forgot to tell them to dress for the event, I never thought to check". And so the counterpoint had shown up in, as you noticed, very casual clothing. And my first thoughts were, "oh my goodness", and the next as we talked it through very quickly was that's the millennials. And that is what to me that's the change, one of the kinds of changes we need to be able to adapt to. You were all very thoughtful when you came to this meeting and thought about what you were going to wear and appear business like and. But recognizing that that's not the same way that millennials think. And so clearly that is one example of change to which we must adapt. As an organization, as individuals and so the changes in our environment we need to be responsive to them. If we want to remain relevant as nursing regulators, we are the ones who need to adapt to the change that is occurring in the healthcare delivery system, within our society and within the greater world that we live in today. So, again, I encourage you to take time to engage with your colleagues here and have those conversations about what all of this means for nursing regulation. Thank you.