Before the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, there was an idea to establish an organization dedicated to public protection and patient safety. This idea came to fruition with the founding of NCSBN in 1978, and it's an idea that continues to be built upon and supported decades later. As NCSBN celebrated its 30th anniversary and entered its 4th decade of operation, the organization acquired exclusive ownership of both the NNAAP and MACE exams, began the transition to practice in National Simulation Studies, and launched the "Journal of Nursing Regulation," the first journal to examine the science of nursing regulation.

Through its work nationally and internationally, NCSBN earned a glowing global reputation. In 2008, the organization welcomed its first international associate member. In 2011, NCSBN collaborated with seven other international nursing regulatory bodies to sign a memorandum of understanding. And in 2012, Canadian regulators chose the NCLEX-RN as the exam that will be used as a licensure requirement in Canada. NCSBN debuted a consumer outreach campaign, the centerpiece of which was a series of national network television commercials, another first for the organization.

NCSBN also launched a new mobile site, and embraced the growing phenomenon of social media, creating Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts for the organization, NCLEX, and learning extension. NCSBN continued to transform its online experience to empower members in the general public with information and access. NCSBN Passport enabled members to manage identities across all NCSBN online tools and sites. NCSBN also launched Nursys e-Notify, an innovative nurse licensure notification system for nurse employers. NCSBN recognizes that public policy through effective legislation and regulation at all levels of government is paramount to achieving its mission. Legislative reports, environmental scans, and policy briefs are produced with the intent of keeping members informed. For years, NCSBN recognized the importance of APRNs in the health care system. It saw how differing state regulatory requirements presented an obstacle to portability, potentially preventing patients from receiving the care they needed from licensed educated professionals. Conscious of its mission of public protection, in 2011, NCSBN launched the Consensus Model for APRN regulation, which outlined regulatory requirements in licensure, accreditation, certification, and education. The campaign's goal is for every state to adopt these requirements, making access to care easier for patients.

It all started with an idea. The passion, creativity, dedication, and hard work of NCSBN and its members...
made that idea reality, revolutionizing the regulation of nurses, protecting the public, and cultivating a community of skilled and innovative regulatory leaders.