



**NCSBN**  
Leading Regulatory Excellence

***2020 NCSBN Annual Meeting - President's Address Video Transcript***  
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**Event**

2020 NCSBN Annual Meeting

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/14657.htm>

**Presenter**

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♪ [music] ♪ Good morning, and welcome to the 42nd gathering of the NCSBN Delegate Assembly. On behalf of the board of directors and staff, I want to express our regrets that we cannot meet with you in person this year.

We are all adjusting to our new normal and understandably due to COVID-19, holding our meeting virtually is the best option and safest option for all of us. So, I'd like to point out for you a few of the activities and progress the organization has made over the past year and highlight some things that I feel have been impactful and some progress that I think you would be interested in.

First, I think we have to address the virtual elephant in the room, and that is COVID-19. I couldn't be more proud of the responses that NCSBN has made to members and the support that they have given this organization since March. As you know, on March 11th, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic.

We began to hear of limited capacity for clinical experiences for nursing students. And as states and provinces issued stay-at-home orders, our test centers, our Pearson VUE test centers had to close. So, testing for new nurse graduates for medication aides, for nurse aides, and many national certification examinations for APRN graduates ground to a halt.

Educators, soon-to-be nursing graduates and employers expecting new graduates began to worry understandably. From the practice environment, we saw a desperate need for mobility of nurses to respond to hotspots of the pandemic. We saw telehealth become essentially the default method for providing non-emergent health care.

The world as we knew it changed. In our regulatory world, we experienced an immediate need for flexibility of waivers of regulation, guidance to stakeholders, and adaptations to our progress to follow executive orders. NCSBN rose to the challenge and provided that much-needed help.

They publish guidance on practice and academic partnerships, various state responses to waivers, and exceptions in regulation. Our CEO schedule weekly calls with the executive officers each Thursday afternoon, which was invaluable.

The board met frequently to assess the situations as they evolved. And one of the most impactful initiatives, I have to give a shout out here to Phil Dickison and his team was that Phil gave us a weekly update on progress with Pearson VUE in maximizing testing capacity and opening new test centers for us.

And just when we thought our new normal could not get any worse, we were made painfully aware of social injustice and racism that continues to permeate our country. In June, NCSBN issued a statement calling for critical examination of regulatory processes for bias.

We're committed to developing resources for our members and to guide regulators and better inform equitable treatment for all. Last year, I was really pleased to introduce you to our Global Regulatory Atlas. This was an initiative David Benton, not only envisioned and created, but also ensured successful implementation.

We now have over 320 countries or jurisdictions, and over 21 million nurses contributing information to this database. It's also always nice to reflect on progress of the Nurse Licensure Compact. Our team has worked so hard on Compact implementation and education for legislators and stakeholders.

We now have 34 states who have fully implemented the Nurse Licensure Compact. So, that's 68% of the country or of the states. And Indiana was our most recent state. So, I'd like to, for sure, congratulate our colleagues in Indiana. We take such pride in Nursys as our integrated database for licensure data, disciplinary data, and license verification.

Soon, we will have 100% participation of licensure and disciplinary data. And e-Notify, we now have over 9,000 employers plus over 530,000 individual nurses who have enrolled in e-Notify.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the e-Notify, it's a database that pushes licensure and disciplinary information to individual licensees and to employers of licensees. There's no cost to their participating in e-Notify. And I would have to say if the Global Regulatory Atlas was conceived by David Benton, then the International Center for Regulatory Scholarship was certainly given birth by Maryann Alexander.

It's not an easy feat to move us from a model of our Institute of Regulatory Excellence, but we needed something that was more responsive, more flexible to our members' needs. And if we were to engage a broader segment of our membership in continued professional growth, we knew we had to make a change.

So, we're really proud that this has been launched over this past year very successfully with over 142 individual regulators taking courses and over 8,000 nurses who took advantage of our free COVID-19 courses. I think that speaks volumes for the work and the vision of the organization.

Our office staff in Washington also continue to have our presence known on the Hill. Over the past year, we've been invited to meetings at the White House, VA, Health and Human Services, Council of State Government, and the Federal Trade Commission.

And these connections and partnerships really prove invaluable for NCSBN as we are now recognized in Washington as the organization to go to about regulation of nursing practice. We now have a foot in the door for many impactful meetings and conversations, and we are increasingly sought after for input and collaboration.

Our business agenda today is a short agenda. You'll find two items on that. And those recommendations can be found on page 11 of your Business Book. The first recommendation is to approve the revised APRN Compact. And if you'll remember, the board withdrew this business item from last year's agenda after receiving significant comments, concerns, and requests for clarification.

NCSBN then convened a meeting with APRN stakeholders and the LACE Network to discuss those concerns. Hearing them, there were some modifications made to the proposed language and then those changes brought to our 2020 mid-year meeting. We all had ample opportunity to discuss both in the plenary session and in our area meetings.

Additionally, after the mid-year meeting, we sent a survey to all membership and asked for further feedback requests for clarification. And staff took all that feedback and shared it with the board of directors at our May meeting. After discussion and consideration, the board approved the version that is being brought to you today.

I believe the proposal before you today will provide a pathway for momentum and for the greater good in realizing a long-awaited APRN Compact. I'd like to close with a quote from one of my favorite authors, William Faulkner. I must admit that when I was in college, the rest of the girls had posters of The Beatles in their rooms around their bed.

And I had William Faulkner and Ray Charles, so go figure. But William Faulkner has always been a guiding light for me. And I'd like to give you one of his quotes that is, "You cannot swim to new horizons unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

So, as we consider the proposed APRN Compact today, I ask that you look away from the shore, take this opportunity to be bold and embark on a horizon where we can see APRN mobility flourish, hopefully for the first time. Thank you.