

## TBON Vice President Nominee-STATEMENT

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### TBON Colleagues:

I am honored to be nominated for Vice President of the Texas Board of Nursing. Being part of this team of exceptional board and staff professionals has been the icing on the cake of my career. I am so proud to be part of it. If elected for this esteemed position, I would endeavor to create a collaborative atmosphere and consistently facilitate communication among board staff and members as issues arise.

Recruited to UTHealth School of Nursing (SON) in 2007, I consistently answered the progressive requests to increase my responsibilities from a casual employee to part-time and since 2014 as full time faculty, clinical track. At Cizik SON, my workload has been comprised of (20%) didactic and (40%) clinical education for pre-licensure and RN-BSN nursing students. My scholarly interest is focused on educating student nurses in the care of people with disabilities (PWD)-progressive, acquired, developmental and intellectual. To that end, in 2016 our former Dean approached me to write a proposal for submission to a private benefactor through the Office of Development. The unique and extensive number of clinical affiliations I had obtained to train pre-licensure nurses in the care of PWD made me an apparent choice. Funded for \$500K, the endowment provides stipends to selected, eligible students to procure skills and knowledge in disabilities. Spring 2020, a 5th cohort completed the fellowship. Testimony from fellows can be viewed using this link:

(<https://nursing.uth.edu/currstudent/cocurricular/index.htm>). I have spoken nationally and internationally about my research in this area and the fellowship, which has revealed that there is a need for interprofessional education to address the care of PWD; this educational deficit is thought to contribute to the significant disparities that exist in this population. Recently, the fellowship I created was featured on the cover page of UTHealth News: (<https://www.uth.edu/news/story.htm?id=8446c880-29ba-42bd-9ac7-d7db91f3e1e8&catinode=1236332>)

Other honors that I have received recently include a nomination of a 3 year term to serve on the Board of Governors for *The Center for Pursuit*, an organization that provides day and residential care for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Also, on October 23, 2020, University of Texas Medical Branch has nominated me to receive the *Hall of Fame* award for my work with Texas Board of Nursing and for people with disabilities.

At the Texas Board of Nursing I have served as both a board member and chair of the Eligibility and Disciplinary committee, as a baccalaureate education board representative on the Education Committee, and a Task force member to study implications of growth in nursing school programs. Recently, two doctor of nursing practice (DNP) students completed their practicum with me for the task force and produced a document that was utilized in advancing task force objectives and priorities. For National Council of State Boards (NCSBN), I served as a member of the Resolutions Committee at the 2019 Annual Conference, and as an appointed member (2017-2019) of the National Committee Item Review (NCIRS) subcommittee team representing Area III. Recently, I received a scholarship from NCSBN to attend George Washington University's Health Policy and Media Relations graduate-certificate program. This program is a 15 hour credit program that spans a year which I will complete Summer of 2021.

I believe my 32 years of clinical, management and academic experience coupled with 5 years of experience at the regulatory level have prepared me to serve in this capacity and if elected, I vow to promote shared collaborative decisions and communicate and disseminate information as appropriate. I hope during my tenure on TBON, I have demonstrated utmost professionalism and collegiality. Thank you for your consideration.