July 25, 2023
Dear Members of the Board of Directors and CEO of NPWH,

Please accept this letter indicating my intention seek the position of President-elect of the Board of Directors of NPWH. I feel the depth and breadth of my experience, coupled with my long established and ongoing commitment to the health of women and all individuals, will enable me to successfully advance the mission and vision of the organization.

For nearly three decades, I have had opportunities to serve students, communities, and the profession of nursing as an educator, mentor, clinician, and leader. I have held leadership positions in public and private universities, with increasing levels of responsibility and success, with a strong focus on advancing the role of the NP. As a member of the leadership team, I have been responsible for large-scale improvement and implementation initiatives and secured funding streams for student and school success. I have been able to successfully advance the mission and vision of each college and university for which I have served. All efforts have been done through a lens of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. As a current member of the Board of NPWH, I have been able to utilize these skills to support and advance the mission of the organization and would use team and collaborative approaches to continue these actions as President.

As a member of the BOD of NPWH, I have had opportunities to support and advance the priority areas of our strategic plan. During our annual meetings, I have actively participated in the revision of our by-laws to ensure *effective governance* by the board to fulfill our mission. As the co-chair and board liaison for the Education Committee, I have worked collaboratively to *engage membership* to have more involvement. This committee seeks to work more closely with our director of education to ensure we are providing our membership, and the larger community, with educational offerings that achieve our priority of *program excellence*. As a member of the policy committee, I am committed to our support of *purposeful policy*, to advance and protect the health, access, and rights of women and all individuals seeking reproductive healthcare. Women's health is at a precarious crossroads and I am prepared to diligently listen, advocate and lead for the necessary level of care for women, children and families.

Through my role as the appointed representative to the *NTF*, and member of the *Curricular Leadership Committee* of *NONPF*, I have the opportunity to shape the future of APRN education at the national level, developing a model of competency-based education. As a member of this group, and representative of NPWH, I bear the responsibility of ensuring our unique contributions and expertise in providing care for women and all individuals, are recognized and valued. To ensure adequate representation and participation from our membership and leadership, I established and implemented a team-based approach to accomplish this work. An online community, shared drive, and standing meetings were created for the NPWH Competency Work Group to promote active participation and communication. This ongoing project will inform the education of future WHNPs and influence scope of practice and policy development. In a related endeavor, with input from the BOD and CEO, I anticipate surveying WHNP programs on their readiness to implement these new guidelines, as well as identify and develop needed resources to support WHNP programs. This work is another example of how I have supported and advanced our organization's strategic priorities.

A hallmark of my career, particularly in academic settings, has been my ability to build and sustain collaborative relationships with various stakeholders. In my roles as an associate dean of an interprofessional college, and previously as an associate dean of an academic medical center, I have had numerous opportunities for interprofessional collaboration. I continue this work through my

engagement on other professional organizations, such as the New York Academy of Medicine, as a fellow and member of the Women's Health Research and Well-being Work Group. Viewing all activities through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion demonstrates a commitment to valuing the individual and collective voice, and the strengths and contributions of each person. This philosophy has allowed for a more synergistic approach, resulting in greater productivity, outcomes and positive experiences. I utilize this approach in my work as a board member, committee member, researcher, and clinician. Some of my suggestions for greater connections and engagement have been realized through our member communities on our webpage.

I continue to practice as a WHNP, and maintain national certification. I see patients in a private practice as well as at the University Student Health and Wellness Center. Through my work at Student Health, I have been able to strengthen the partnership between the College of Nursing and Student Health Services, expanding access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. My commitment to the health and well-being of women and all persons seeking care is also exemplified through my volunteer work as an evaluator for a non-profit organization providing support for persons seeking asylum, advocating for their rights to a safe and secure living environment.

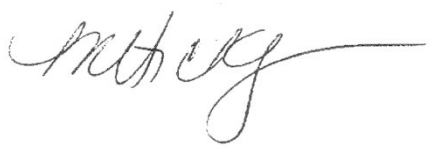
I am honored and humbled to serve on the BOD of NPWH. If selected as President-elect, I would continue to advance and support the mission and vision of NPWH, pursuing our strategic priorities, and supporting the efforts of the President, BOD, and CEO. For example, in an effort to continue to engage membership, I would explore and pursue opportunities to further engage membership and expand our mentorship activities. I would seek to elevate the efforts of our Advocacy Committee for broader reach to our membership and regional stakeholders and engage partnerships with local, regional, and national organizations and agencies. My experiences in academic program development are valuable to help attain our goals of increasing program and professional development offerings. We are fortunate to have an exemplary governance structure in place, led by a skilled CEO. As President-elect, I would continue to build on this model, expanding sources of funding and increasing financial solvency of the organization.

Future goals I would hope to focus on, in collaboration with the BOD, CEO, and key stakeholders, would include:

1. Strengthen Research Focus
    - Increase focus on research
    - Explore sources of funding
    - Develop research priorities
2. Increase Collaborative Partnerships
    - Professional organizations
    - Local and national governmental agencies
    - Academic-Practice partners
3. Advance Policy Agenda
    - Equity, access, scope of practice
    - Leverage collaborative partnerships toward a common goal
4. Improve Education and Practice
    - Continuing education & professional development opportunities
    - Mentorship and support for those in practice
    - Development "tool kits" for academic programs

In summary, I believe I possess the requisite skill set to successfully lead NPWH to achieve our collective mission and vision. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy for President-elect, intended with full dedication and determination to work toward fulfillment of the mission, vision, and goals of the organization.

Sincerely,



Mary T Hickey, EdD., WHNP-BC, FNP-BC