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For Immediate Release

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Washington, DC – The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) announces the election of Dr. Allyssa Harris, RN, PhD, WHNP-BC, as the new Secretary of the NPWH Board of Directors (BOD). Dr. Harris will begin her two-year term on January 1, 2023.

"Dr. Harris is an exceptional leader in women's health and will bring strategic expertise to the board of directors and the executive committee of the NPWH. We are very fortunate that she will be able to continue as an elected officer and assist the organization in meeting its mission and vision," said NPWH Board Chair Shawana S. Moore, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC.

"NPWH is excited to have Dr. Harris serve in this leadership role," said CEO of NPWH Heather L. Maurer, MA, CAE. "She brings extensive executive leadership experience, in combination with clinical and educational experience, to our organization at this critical juncture when we are seeking new ways to meet our mission of advancing and continuing to strengthen the women's health nurse practitioner profession."

Dr. Harris serves as the Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing at Prairie View A&M University. She began her academic career at William F. Connell School of Nursing at Boston College in 2007 as a Clinical Assistant Professor before transitioning to the tenure track in 2011. During her time at Boston College, she achieved tenure and became Associate Professor in 2017. In 2019, she was elected Department Chair by the Faculty at the William F. Connell School of Nursing. She has also served as the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Program Director at Boston College. She has been a member of NPWH since 2012.

Throughout her 36-year career as a nurse and women's health nurse practitioner, she has maintained a clinical practice, most recently as a member of the health care team at Healthquarters, Inc., in Beverly, MA. Dr. Harris' program of research centers on reducing adolescent sexual risk behaviors, in particular, understanding the role of parent-adolescent sexual communication and media influences on sexual risk behaviors. She also conducts research in the areas of diversity and leadership among nurses of color. Dr. Harris has published a number of articles and a textbook on Women's Health issues including contraception, sexual decision-making, and parent-child sexual communication.

Dr. Harris has received awards for Education from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association and the Inspiration in Women's Health award from NPWH. She is a member of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, NPWH, and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). Dr. Harris is the past president of Boston College's Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board, and editor of the Short Reviews column in the Journal

of Nursing for Women's Health. She is a member of AWHONN's Research Advisory Panel and NPWH's Research Committee, Academic Program Leaders Group, and Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Committee.

To learn more about the NPWH Board of Directors, click here.

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The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) is a nonprofit, professional membership association representing more than 12,000 Women's Health Nurse Practitioners (WHNPs) in the US. Advanced practice registered nurses and other healthcare providers rely on NPWH for resources and education that improve women's health and wellness through evidence-based practice. NPWH pioneers policies to address gender disparities and forges strategic partnerships that advance health equity and holistic models of care. For more information, visit www.npwh.org