

Candidate for ANNA National Director

Leah Foster Smith, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CNN-NP, FNKF, FANNA, FAANP

Experience:

- Board-certified Nephrology and Family NP Since 2001
- Director of Advanced Practice Providers at Metrolina Nephrology Associates, leading the largest nephrology APP team in the U.S.
- Co-founder/Chief Education Officer of Interactive Nephrology and Creator of Ready for Rounds and Cleared for Clinic, the first two nationally accredited Nephrology APP training programs
- Adjunct Faculty, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing
- **ANNA**
 - Member of ANNA since 2002
 - Inaugural Fellow of ANNA
 - Greater Charlotte Chapter: Past President, Secretary, and Health Policy Rep (2010-2022)
 - Conferences Committee: Past Chair (2025-2026), Chair (2023-2025), Chair Designate (2021-2023), Committee Member (2015-2020)
 - Past Member: Education Steering Committee (2024-2025); Nominations Committee (2020-2021); AAKHI Workgroup (2019-2020); Health Policy Workgroup (2017-2018)
 - NC Statewide Symposium Planning Committee: Past Member (2011-2018)
 - APRN Section Editor & Chapter Co-Author 7th Edition; APRN Section Editor & Chapter Author for 8th Edition, ANNA Core Curriculum
 - Chapter Author, Career Pathways into Nephrology Nursing
 - Content Expert Faculty/ Presenter at 40+ ANNA Events
- ASN: Workforce & Training Committee Member (First APP member)
- NKF
 - Fellow of NKF
 - Council of Advanced Practice Providers (CAPP): Past Chair; Current CE Chair
 - National Scientific Advisory Board (Past Member); Current NC MAB Member
- RPA: Annual Meeting APP Track, Creator and Lead



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Qualifications:

- Over 24 years of experience in Nephrology Nursing, bringing a seasoned and forward-thinking perspective to the ANNA Board of Directors (BOD).
- Over 18 years developing and leading the largest group of Nephrology APPs in the country, setting a national standard for APP leadership.
- Honored as an inaugural Fellow of ANNA (FANNA) and recognized as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) and the National Kidney Foundation (FNKF), underscoring a sustained commitment to nephrology leadership.
- Selected as AANP Approved Provider (by invitation only).
- National Nephrology Speaker with over 80+ podium presentations.
- Developer of one of the nation's first APP-led CKD clinic models, serving 30,000+ patients.
- Holds concurrent leadership roles with ANNA, ASN, NKF, and RPA, facilitating alignment of National Nephrology initiatives with ANNA's mission.
- Actively advances Nephrology nursing through education, leadership, and mentorship.
- Well-positioned to support ANNA's strategic vision, strengthen membership engagement, and promote organizational growth.

