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| **Fall 2021 Newsletter****News and Events*** November 18th: Sexually Transmitted Infection <https://auws.enpnetwork.com/nurse-practitioner-events/137924-sexually-transmitted-infection-2021-updates#!info>
* Save the Date: ARNPs Lobby Day, January 20, 2022, 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom” look for details on the ARNPs United website.
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* **Congratulations to the newly elected ARNPS United Board, including new board member, Dr. Carrie Ann Maytec, DNP, FNP, ARNP-BC! This month our board profile is of Dr. Kumhee Ro.**

**Meet a Board Member: Kumhee Ro, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC**

Kumhee Ro, DNP, MN, ARNP is a board member and the Vice President of ARNPs United of Washington State. She is an assistant professor at Seattle University College of Nursing and a nurse practitioner at the University of Washington Medical Center Emergency Department (ED). She took some time to talk with us about her clinical work, how she came to become a nurse educator, and what is important to her about being an ARNP in Washington State.

**Tell us about your professional experience and why you joined ARNPs United of Washington State.**

I've been very fortunate to have a variety of experiences in advanced practice nursing.   I've been able to provide care to geriatric patients in long term care facilities, I've provided primary care and women's health care to populations in our public health and community clinics, and I've worked as a hospitalist with a focus on acute care.  I've spent the past 10 years in Emergency Medicine, working as a nurse practitioner at the University of Washington Medical Center.  As unique as each experience has been, I've learned that the common theme has been the meaning and satisfaction I've found providing high quality, compassionate care to diverse, medically complex, often underserved populations.

The ability that I've had to promote and provide health care as an advanced practice nurse is a reflection of the work done by groups like ARNPs United of Washington State.  Washington is one of the most progressive states for ARNP practice, thanks to our committed ARNP predecessors.  I joined ARNPs United because I believe we must never forget that our ability to practice is dependent on the tireless work done at the legislative and regulatory level.   I remind myself and others that we need to continue to be involved at the policy level to maintain our current practice to make a great impact and contribution to the communities that depend upon us.

**Why did you decide to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner and as a nurse educator?**

I always wanted to be a teacher. As a matter of fact, I was going to major in education and specialize in special education. Interestingly, that changed when I met a friend who introduced me to the discipline of nursing in my freshman year in College.  I first learned about the nurse practitioner degree during my nursing undergraduate years. I pursued a master's degree as an Adult Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and then a post master's degree as an FNP and DNP at the University of Washington School of Nursing. What I found so rewarding about clinical practice was the privilege of building relationships with patients, families, and communities. Through it all though, I never lost that initial passion for teaching, so I was very excited to begin teaching part-time after I received my DNP.  I taught at UW in their DNP-ARNP programs and then transitioned to Seattle University.

**In addition to serving as a board member on ARNPs United of Washington State, what do you feel passionate about?**

As a first-generation immigrant working with underserved population, I wanted to contribute to addressing existing health disparities. I currently lead many local and national initiatives aimed at expansion, support, and advancement opportunities for underrepresented nursing students and faculty.  My scholarship focuses on interventions to promote health equity for vulnerable, marginalized, stigmatized, and underserved communities. Of particular interest is the impact of the diversity of the healthcare workforce on outcomes for underserved ethnic/racial minority populations.   The critical area of my scholarship emphasizes identifying approaches to support nursing faculty of color in order to promote diversity in nursing and reduce health disparities.  Among other projects, I have co-founded and lead the National Jesuit Diverse Nurse Faculty Network. This is a network through the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities that connects and mentors faculty of color in nursing academia through mutual support in our professional journey. I am also working with an interprofessional research team to examine characteristics and evaluation strategies for diversity promoting K -12 career pipeline programs.  Recently, I was selected to co-lead the Diversity Committee of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). In this role, I will advise and engage with academic leadership on resources in support of NONPF’s goal to champion a culture of diversity and inclusivity across all nurse practitioner education programs.

I feel fortunate to have these opportunities to address issues I am passionate about, just as I feel fortunate to have been able to contribute to improved health care in so many capacities as a nurse practitioner.  Our work today is a way that we show gratitude to the ARNPs that came before us, and a way that we can continue to work for healthier communities for tomorrow.

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**The Book Corner:**

**Nursing Civil Rights: Gender and Race in the Army Nurse Corps by Clarissa J. Threat**

[**https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/?id=p080777**](https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/?id=p080777)

Nursing Civil Rights is a readable, well written book on the history of racial division within nursing, as told through the story of the Army Nurse Corps. It serves as a good introduction to many of the core issues that the American nursing profession faces, as well as a deep dive into the Army Nurse Corps and the struggle for integration fought by African American Women. While I was more compelled by the story of integration, she also tell the story of Men who fought to be accepted as nurses, and how both groups worked to change the Army Nurse Corp. I learned a great deal about both the Army Nurse Corps, military culture, and nursing history.