



CAPNI CONNECT

Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear CAPNI Members,

You may have seen the recent *Indianapolis Star* article, “Rural hospitals are closing. Nurses could help, if Indiana would let them.” Access to care by APRNs is gaining visibility, and CAPNI continues to advocate for our profession and patients. Your membership strengthens this work and helps us influence policy that directly impacts your practice.

With license renewal approaching, remember that CAPNI offers valuable benefits, like opioid prescribing and pharmacology CEs, to meet state requirements. Plus, take advantage of *free* member-only courses throughout the year.

CAPNI is growing! We’re excited to welcome our new administrative assistant, Skylar Marten, and to announce a search for our first Executive Director to guide CAPNI’s next chapter. Leadership opportunities are also open; please nominate yourself or a colleague for a position on our Board of Directors, join a committee, and attend your region meetings to stay engaged.

Save the date for the annual CAPNI Conference in French Lick, February 18–20. Submit an abstract to share your expertise! While there, don’t miss the PAC Party on February 19th, a fun event that fuels our advocacy.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. Together, we make CAPNI strong.

Warm regards,
Kristy Umana, FNP-C

LICENSE RENEWAL TIME

As a reminder, in Indiana, APRNs *with prescriptive authority* must have **30 continuing education hours every two years** at the time of license renewal; **eight of these must be in pharmacology**. For *Controlled Substance Registration (CSR) renewal*, you must have **two hours of opioid education**. This year, you have to upload your continuing education to the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency website during renewal as proof of compliance. You have until October 31, 2025, but it is suggested to renew sooner than this date in case you run into any problems along the way.

Need any last minute CEUs?

Register for the **CAPNI Fall Pharmacology Conference** in South Bend on Friday, September 26th. The keynote speaker will discuss opioid prescribing and pain management. Other agenda items include topics on neurology, psychology, hair loss, and women’s health. Earn **six hours of pharmacology CEUs**! Registration is open on CAPNI’s website today.



CAPNI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lara Lahr, CNM

CAPNI Professional Member

CAPNI Region 10 Region Director

CAPNI Legislative & Grassroots Committee Member

Where did you go to school for your nursing degrees?

I attended the Community College of Philadelphia for my Associate's, West Chester University for my BSN, and Frontier Nursing University for my CNM.

Where do you practice as an APRN?

I work with Parkview PPG OB/GYN and am contracted out by Alliance Health Center (an FQHC) and deliver at Parkview Randallia in Fort Wayne. We see OB and GYN patients in clinic and do 24-hour call shifts in Randallia for labor and delivery.

What is your favorite thing about being an APRN?

I love being a part of womans' lives during such a transitional period of their lives. I develop long-lasting relationships with women, as they continue to come back to see me for future pregnancies and women's health care.

What is your greatest accomplishment / what are you most proud of in your nursing career?

I love that my Spanish has improved enough to care for a majority of Spanish-speaking patients. Seeing how much more comfortable they feel with someone who connects with them in their language has given me the motivation to continue learning.

Why are you a member of CAPNI? What do you like best or find important about being a CAPNI member?

I am a member because I believe APRNs are a huge part of the solution to the Hoosier health care crisis. I am especially hopeful that if we come together as APRNs, we can gain enough attention with legislators to eliminate the collaborative agreement burden. We would be able to fill the healthcare gaps that continue to grow with closures of hospitals and clinics in rural areas.

Share any fun facts about yourself.

My husband and I have lived in Fort Wayne for the past six years, after moving from Philadelphia where we raised our three daughters. My husband and I are empty nesters now and we enjoy traveling, getting together with our girls, eating at hole-in-the-wall ethnic restaurants, and long walks in Promenade Park and other local parks. We stay active in the community working towards social justice and peace building.

Know a CAPNI member worth highlighting in an upcoming CAPNI Connect Newsletter? Maybe it's you! Email admin@capni.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ADVOCACY DAY

Join us for CAPNI Advocacy Day at the Indiana Statehouse on January 20, 2026 as we come together to advocate for APRN practice in our state! This is a powerful opportunity to share our voices, educate lawmakers, and demonstrate the vital role APRNs play in Indiana's healthcare system. This year (pictured), we made an



impact. However, next year, we'd love to see the entire staircase filled with APRNs, creating an even stronger presence. The more voices we have speaking on behalf of APRNs and the patients we serve, the greater our impact will be in shaping policies that expand access to quality care across Indiana. Mark your calendars, bring your colleagues, and show the pride of our profession!



CAPNI LAUNCHES THE YEAR OF THE STUDENT

CAPNI is proud to announce our Year of the Student campaign, an exciting initiative to support the next generation of APRNs. For the 2025-2026 academic year, we are offering a **FREE one-year CAPNI membership** to all students enrolled in their initial APRN program. This is our way of investing in the future of our profession by providing resources, connections, and opportunities that will help students thrive both during their education and in their careers.

Student members will gain access to valuable benefits, including local networking with experienced APRNs, connections to potential preceptors, eligibility for scholarship funding,

and research support. Students can take advantage of CAPNI's continuing educational opportunities, engagement in advocacy efforts that protect and advance APRN practice, and offers for leadership development, such as serving as a student representative on our Board of Directors!

We believe that when APRN students are supported, the entire profession grows stronger. If you or someone you know is currently in an APRN program, we invite you to take advantage of this special opportunity and join a community dedicated to advancing practice, improving patient care, and fostering leadership in nursing. Together, we can build a brighter future for APRNs in Indiana.



CALLING ALL PRECEPTORS!

As part of CAPNI's **Year of the Student** campaign, we're expanding our preceptor directory to better connect student members with experienced professionals. Please consider being a resource by adding your contact information to the Preceptor Directory located in the "Student Section" of the CAPNI website. Your support helps shape the next generation of APRNs. Thank you for making a difference!



SAVE THE DATES

Sept 1-7: National CNS Week
Sept 26: CAPNI Pharmacology Conference in South Bend
Oct 5-11 : National CNM Week
Nov 9-15: National NP Week
Jan 20, 2026: CAPNI Advocacy Day at the Statehouse
Feb 18-20: CAPNI Annual Conference in French Lick

SAVE THE DATE
2026 ANNUAL APRN CONFERENCE



SEEKING
**SPEAKERS AND
POSTER PRESENTERS**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 2026 annual CAPNI conference will take place on February 18-20, 2026 in French Lick, IN. CAPNI invites you to participate in our annual conference by submitting an abstract for a conference speaker presentation and/or poster presentation. Major categories of the conference include: Pharmacology, Primary Care (including Women's Health, Pediatrics, Geriatrics), Acute/Critical Care, Specialty Care, Health Care Reform, Leadership, and Policy Issues.

Submissions should relate to one of the major categories of the conference and should be evidence-based. Please consider how the information presented can be integrated into clinical practice by the attendees. Submission deadline is September 1, 2025. Abstract should be submitted online to admin@capni.org utilizing the abstract submission form found on the CAPNI website. Contact admin@capni.org for questions.



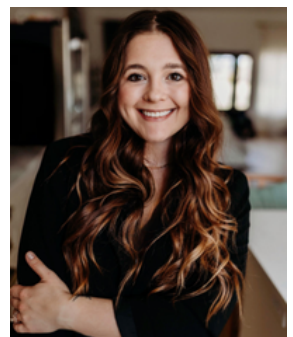
Debra Brock Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Kathryn Healy,
DNP student

Congratulations to CAPNI's 2025 Debra Brock Memorial Scholarship recipients. CAPNI supports the future of APRNs in this state by offering two \$1000 scholarships to students pursuing a Master's or Doctorate degree from an accredited university.

Doing research? You can also use CAPNI as a resource when conducting research or implementing evidence-based practice projects! Visit CAPNI's website for more information.



Kierstin High,
MSN student