

# INSIGHT

The Newsletter of the Student Nurses' Association  
of Pennsylvania - August 2020



**Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania**

**68<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**



**VIRTUAL  
CONVENTION!**

**November 18 - 20, 2020**

**Geisinger**

**SNAP CHAMPION SPONSOR!**

**UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES!**

As we are all adjusting our lives to the current pandemic, SNAP has made the tough decision to change our 68th Annual Convention into a Virtual Convention, considering most schools have issued a travel ban for both students and faculty. In order to accommodate and provide our attendees with all of the perks of convention, we came to the conclusion that the virtual approach fits best.

With that being said, we will still have all of the professional and rewarding aspects of the event, including business meetings, keynote speaker and workshops, awards and scholarship presentations, a virtual exhibit hall, and much more! We also encourage anyone interested in running for the SNAP Board of Directors and Nominations and Elections Committee to submit the Consent to Serve JotForm. All candidates will be submitting a photo and recorded videos that will help the delegates get to know them.

This convention will be extremely efficient by providing recordings where possible to work with busy schedules as well as hosting live sessions to connect, network, and ask questions of our special guests and other SNAP members. We are excited to take on this new approach and we are working very hard to make this a great convention.

You will be receiving the convention schedule and registration in September with all of the details. We look forward to seeing you at the convention!

---

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SEPTEMBER 2020



*The Association of  
Tomorrow's Nursing Leaders*

- **Deadline** for September INSIGHT:  
Tuesday, September 1
- SNAP Board of Directors Virtual Meeting:  
Saturday, September 12

### OCTOBER 2020

- **Deadline** for October INSIGHT: Thursday, October 1
- **Deadline** for Chapter Constituency Status (*determines # of delegates for convention. NSNA will send list of members at the end of day*):  
Thursday, October 15
- **Deadline** for Chapter/Individual Awards and Scholarships: 5pm on  
Thursday, October 15
- **Deadline** for SNAP Consent To Serve forms (running for SNAP Board/NEC positions) 5pm on Wednesday, October 28

### NOVEMBER 2020

- **SNAP 68TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

- **THE FUTURE OF NURSING 2020: The Power of YOU!**
- **NOVEMBER 18 - 21, 2020**

## DECEMBER 2020

- **Deadline** for December INSIGHT: Tuesday, December 1

## JANUARY 2021

- **Deadline** for January INSIGHT: Monday, January 4
- SNAP Board of Directors Meeting, **TBD** (Mandatory meeting for Board members elected in November)

## FEBRUARY 2021

- **Deadline** for February INSIGHT: Monday, February 1

## MARCH 2021

- **Deadline** for March INSIGHT: Monday, March 1
- **David R. Ranck LEAD Workshop**: March 20-21
- **Capitol Hill Step by Step**: Tuesday, March 23

## APRIL 2021

- **Deadline** for April INSIGHT: Thursday, April 1

## MAY 2021

- **Deadline** for May INSIGHT: Saturday, May 1

## JUNE 2021

- **Deadline** for June INSIGHT: Tuesday, June 1
- SNAP Board of Directors Meeting: TBD, Harrisburg, PA

## JULY 2021

- **Deadline** for July INSIGHT: Thursday, July 1

## AUGUST 2021

- **Deadline** for August INSIGHT: Monday, August 2

---

# Legislative Corner

by **Alyssa Tygh**, SNAP Legislative Coordinator

## Dissecting Political Parties

When we turn on the television, scroll our Twitter feed and Facebook page, or tune into the radio, it is inevitable we hear the ongoing battle between Democrats and Republicans, From healthcare to gun control to immigration, all the nonsense blurs together when one doesn't even know the



difference between the two major political parties or even what a political party is! To learn the basic difference between the parties and where you might stand on the political spectrum, please click on the link in the SNAP Legislative Corner on our website:

### [SNAP Legislative Corner - Articles](#)

## The Electoral College

You will also find another article in the SNAP Legislative Corner (click the above link) on the Electoral College. After the 2016 election, many brought into question the purposes of the Electoral College after Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but lost the election to Donald Trump. This is the fifth time in United States' history, twice this century, that a presidential candidate won the presidency without winning the popular vote. This article takes a look at how the Electoral College works and the pros and cons of the system our forefathers put in place.

---



## Reflections on Graduating during COVID

by **Amy Kaiser**, SNAP President

Two days after being told that the remainder of senior year was going to be online, I was involved with a virtual open house for prospective University of Scranton students. When I got on the zoom call, I saw the faces and heard the voices of the incoming class of 2024 nurses. They asked questions like, *“Are there a lot of clubs and service opportunities on campus?”*, *“Is it manageable to be on a sports team and in nursing?”*, and *“Are there things to do on the weekend?”*. Each time I tried to craft a response I was flooded with the memories that shaped my last four years. I was instantly brought back to that freshman year feeling of nervous and excited energy. I remembered the anticipation of walking into the room of my first patient, the stress of my first return demonstration and the thrill that came with the moment I knew I picked the right major at my first NSNA convention. As I was in the middle of reminiscing, another student on the zoom call interrupted my thoughts by asking the question, *“What’s the best part about being a nursing student?”*

I wish I could say that after getting the news that the school year was ending early, I took it in stride and found an optimistic spin, but that was unfortunately not the case. I was heartbroken thinking of all the lost memories, selfishly feeling a little cheated out of what I imagined to be one of the best two month stretches of my life. As I was asked, *“What’s the best part about being a nursing student?”* I processed a range of emotions. I struggled to find the words to explain why I fell in love with this major and all of the incredible experiences it brought me. It would have been easy to talk about the clinical hours, the SIM lab or the curriculum; however, it wasn’t

any of those components of my nursing education that caused me to feel so nostalgic and sentimental after that zoom call.

The circumstances surrounding the conclusion of college or the commencement of our future careers are of course not ideal. But as the initial feelings of disappointment and frustration subside, I'm left with much stronger feelings of fulfillment and gratitude. As I think about all of the incredible nurses I met through this organization, I feel proud to graduate alongside so many of them. The people that surround you, shape you, and I feel so lucky to have developed my foundational values from a community of SNAP nurses who inspire me. In the more challenging days of my nursing program, I found comfort and camaraderie in knowing that there were people from all across the state who could relate to what I was feeling and offer support. Although we may not have shared all of the same experiences, we were connected through common challenges, such as difficult patients or the battle to not hit snooze on an alarm set for 5:00 a.m. No matter what each of us goes on to achieve in the future, our journey as nurses started together. What I learned through SNAP will always be the core of my professional identity, and I truly believe at the center of my personal character as well.

We may have missed the NSNA Annual Convention, pinning ceremonies and graduation, which would have been an amazing way to wrap up our college years, but that's all those events would have been - the wrapping paper around the really great gift of getting to become a nurse. The gift of our education is essentially being handed to us in a brown paper bag, but it's important to not let the disconcerting exterior distract from what's inside. At the end of the day, we're still being given the same gift as all the other classes- getting to become an RN and enter a field we're all so passionate about. We'll always be the class that graduated during the Coronavirus, but I hope that only strengthens our connection and helps to positively define the identity of this class. The nursing class of 2020 will be remembered for graduating during what the World's Health Organization deemed "Year of the Nurse ", the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and during one of the most trying climates healthcare has ever endured. I have no doubt that each member of this class will meet that challenge and prove, now more than ever, why nursing has been the most trusted profession for eighteen years in a row.

The significance of finishing nursing school wasn't just in the degree, it's in the way each moment cultivated a new outlook on healthcare and a lasting feeling of a community, shaped by meaningful friendships and memories. Although SNAP's 68th Annual Convention won't be in person, as nurses we are ready to adapt to the current environment and I am looking forward to seeing everyone virtually in November. To the students that are beginning classes again in the fall, I know these are challenging times, but I'll be thinking of you and wishing you the best of luck as you navigate this new normal. As seniors we may graduate, but I know my years of nursing school and this organization will continue to impact my life long after convention ends in November; when I think back to being on that zoom call

for Scranton's nursing preview day, I realize that's the best part about being a nursing student.

---

**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

# REGISTERED NURSE

## Immediate Openings Statewide

**Secure a Career – Secure Your Future**

**Offering a generous compensation & benefits package!**

<i>Age 55 Retirement</i>	<i>Competitive Salary</i>	<i>Leave Package</i>
<i>Union Covered</i>	<i>Continuing Education</i>	<i>11 Paid Holidays</i>
<i>Long-Term Career</i>	<i>Group Life Insurance</i>	<i>Loan Forgiveness</i>
<i>Professional Advancement</i>	<i>Health Care Benefits</i>	<i>401k/Pension Hybrid</i>

**Apply now at [www.employment.pa.gov](http://www.employment.pa.gov)**

**To schedule a tour of our Medical Department or for general questions:**

**Contact: Martha Wilson at [martwilson@pa.gov](mailto:martwilson@pa.gov)**

**For more information visit: [www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov)**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proud to be an equal opportunity employer supporting workplace diversity. This ad was paid for with taxpayer dollars.

---

## EMPOWERING RESOLUTIONS

**In Support of Increasing Awareness Regarding the Incidence of Newborns with Differences in Sex Development**



**Authors:** Ashley Bleiler, May Njuyen, Devon Konick, Evelyn Bigini, Julissa Brown, Kaitlyn Eastburn, Jannah Jagoe, Ji Yeon Lee, Nora Murray, Miranda

The ethical principles of autonomy and veracity are the most important principles to uphold in order to establish and maintain a healthy, trusting relationship between patients and providers. Patients should be given all of the information regarding their condition and care in order to make the most informed decisions about their care. But what happens when decisions are made for patients--major decisions that affect their identity and selfhood--before they even are old enough to be aware of it? This is often times the case for patients with Differences of Sex Development (DSD) and can lead to long-term effects on their overall health and well-being.

Differences of Sex Development (DSD) are defined as “congenital conditions within which the development of chromosomal, gonadal and anatomic sex is atypical,” and globally, the incidence of DSD is 1:100 to 1:4500-5000 live births (Lee et al, 2016). Sex-assignment surgery, outside of extreme circumstances, is often done out of concern for the infant’s ease of childhood; however, many of the negative effects of surgical intervention are often disregarded. These negative effects include, but are not limited to, loss of sexual function, corrective surgeries, lifelong hormone replacement, and gender dysphoria (Carpenter, 2018). Evidence from a study in 2019 has demonstrated that when having a dialogue with parents about DSD, clinicians often leverage their medical expertise to extend their cultural authority about sex and gender (Timmermans et al, 2019). Additionally, there have been reported cases of genital surgery being performed without informed parental consent (Ernst et al, 2018), and of providers advising parents not to disclose the child’s diagnosis to the child, even as the child matures (Wilson & Reiner, 1998).

The care of patients with DSD is complicated, but it is severely lacking. There are very few medical centers that have interdisciplinary teams with a focus on patients with DSD, even though decisions about their care should not be made by one physician alone (Krishna, Houk, & Lee, 2017). Beyond just the physical care of the patients, they have significant psychosocial needs--feeling ashamed, isolated, or confused while struggling with stigma, fear, and uncertainty--that are also not being met (Pence, 2015). There has not been adequate time or resources put into understanding these patients and providing them with truly patient-centered care.

In presenting this resolution to the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania, we hoped to shed light on the changes that need to be made when making decisions for children with DSD. Children with DSD should no longer be subjected to unnecessary cosmetic surgeries. These surgeries should not occur under any circumstances until the child can make a decision for themselves and can provide full informed consent. Providing choice for such surgeries will allow these children to have autonomy over their own bodies and can help minimize psychological stress. Considering the complexities of the care that children with DSD need, decisions that may affect these children’s entire lives and identities should not be decided by one singular physician. Children with DSD deserve to have more of a say in their care since decisions made regarding their care will affect them for

the rest of their lives, and we as nurses should be advocating for these patients to have their voices heard.

## References

- Carpenter, M. (2018). The "normalization" of intersex bodies and "othering" of intersex identities in Australia. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 15(4), pp. 487-495.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-018-9855-8>
- Ernst, M. M., Liao, L., Baratz, A. B., & Sandberg, D. E. (2018). Disorders of sex development/intersex:gaps in psychosocial care for children. *Pediatrics Perspective*, 142(2).  
<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-4045>
- Krishna, K. B., Houk, C. P., & Lee, P. A. (2017). Pragmatic approach to intersex, including genital ambiguity, in the newborn. *Seminars in Perinatology*, 41, pp. 244-251.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1053/j.semperi.2017.03.013>
- Lee, P., Nordenstrom, A., Houk, C., Ahmed, S., Auchus, R., Baratz, A., ... Witchel, S. (2016). Global disorders of sex development update since 2006: perceptions, approach and care. *Hormone Research in Pediatrics*, 85. doi: 10.1159/000442975
- Pence, G. E. (2015). *Medical ethics: accounts of ground-breaking cases* (7th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill Education.
- Timmermans, S., Yang, A., Gardner, M., Keegan, C. E., Yashar, B. M., Fechner, ... & Sandberg, D. E. (2019). Gender destinies: assigning gender in disorders of sex development-intersex clinics. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 20, pp. 1-15. doi: 10.1111/1467-9566.12974
- Wilson, Bruce E., and Reiner, William G. "Management of Intersex: A Shifting Paradigm." *The Journal of Clinical Ethics*, The Journal of Clinical Ethics, 1998,  
<http://www.clinicalethics.com/archives/19989404.pdf>.

---

### ***Dear SNAP Member/Faculty Advisor:***

*I encourage you to submit articles and photos pertinent to other nursing students in Pennsylvania to be included in the next issue of INSIGHT. This is your newsletter and vehicle to let others know what is happening at your school and chapter.*

*Send your articles, pictures, calendar of events, and contact information to [snap@snap-online.org](mailto:snap@snap-online.org). The deadline to receive these items is approximately the first day of the month prior to publication.*

*We look forward to hearing from you soon!*

*Sincerely,*

***Alyssa Jones, SNAP Secretary Treasurer***

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS? CONTACT CINDY SHINGLER, SNAP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AT (717)671-7110 OR EMAIL:**

**[SNAP@SNAP-ONLINE.ORG](mailto:SNAP@SNAP-ONLINE.ORG)**

**Student Nurses Association of  
Pennsylvania**

PO Box 6567, Harrisburg, PA 17111  
(717)671-7110  
snap@snap-online.org

 SHARE

 TWEET

 FORWARD

You received this email because you signed up  
on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)