



2024

# FELLOWS

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**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**



# A Message from The Fellows of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (FACNM) Board of Governors

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There are 47 exemplary midwives who have been accepted for Fellowship in 2024.

Fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives is an honor bestowed upon those midwives whose demonstrated leadership within ACNM, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession. The ACNM Fellowship was first established in 1994.

With the addition of the 2024 Fellows, there will be 696 FACNMs. Thank you for joining us in honoring the new FACNMs and celebrating their accomplishments.

Congratulations to our new 2024 FACNMs!



**Sascha James-Conterelli, DNP, CNM, LM, FACNM,  
FAAN, FNYAM**  
**Chair, ACNM Fellows Board of Governors**  
**Secretary, ACNM Foundation Board of Trustees**





### **Kathlyn Albert, DNP, FNP-BC, CNM**

Kathlyn has been a CNM since 2007, with previous practice experience in central city Milwaukee as a dual-certified FNP/CNM. After completing her DNP degree, she played an integral role in the initiation of a nurse-midwifery practice at the Marquette Neighborhood Health Center. She has been faculty at Marquette University since 2018, taking on the role of Nurse-Midwifery Program Director in 2021. As a Clinical Assistant Professor, Kathlyn plays a vital role in Marquette's program by teaching multiple courses within the specialty. She thoroughly enjoys educating future providers of care and the relationship she develops with each nurse-midwifery student she encounters. Additionally, Kathlyn has become engaged in nurse-midwifery-related research with esteemed colleagues in the College of Nursing. She has hopes of getting back into clinical practice, but for now, her position at Marquette, as well as her four children, keep her quite busy.



### **Nicolle L Arthun, BSN, RN, MSN, CNM**

Nicolle L. Arthun is a Dine' Nurse-Midwife from the Navajo Nation who has over 13 years of Nurse-Midwifery experience practicing in rural hospitals and community birth settings in New Mexico. She founded the Changing Woman Initiative in 2015 with the mission to empower our diverse indigenous communities to protect cultural birth resiliency and the fundamental human right to reproductive health, dignity, and justice. Many know Nicolle through her leadership and innovative work with the Changing Woman Initiative.



### **Emily Barr, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, CNM, ACRN, FACNM, FAAN**

Emily Anne Barr, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, CNM, ACRN, FACNM, FAAN, Assistant Professor, Cizik School of Nursing at UTHHealth in Houston, completed her BS at Cornell University, MSN at Yale School of Nursing, midwifery degree at SUNY Stony Brook, and her PhD in Caring and Biobehavioral Sciences at the University of Colorado School of Nursing. Previously, Dr. Barr joined the Children's Hospital Colorado's HIV program in 2001 where she managed the HIV and vaccine research program (including involvement in PHACS, IMPAACT, HPTN, ATN, and COVPN networks). Dr. Barr studies the relational healthcare decision-making process and vaccine confidence, with a focus on patient-provider trust, silver linings, intellectual humility, and telehealth use to promote engagement in care in youth, pregnant, post-partum, and breastfeeding people with HIV.



### **CAPT Jessica D Beard, CNM, DNP, MSN, MBA, PGCE, NEA-BC**

Jessica Beard has been a member of the United States Navy for over 35 years. She has served in roles not traditionally held by Navy nurse-midwives. In Iwakuni, Japan, she led during the planning and phased establishment of Navy Medicine's first freestanding birthing center, a \$176M project that remains of high military interest. As the Chief Nurse Officer at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland she led over 2,000 military and civilian nurses in the daily operations of nursing and advanced practice care. She now works as the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Officer for Navy Region Hawaii and is responsible for the policies, practices, regulations, and personnel training in Hawaii, Korea, parts of Japan, and Australia. Across all leadership roles, Jessica has maintained a presence in the clinical spaces, providing care and championing process improvement initiatives that have focused on safe perinatal and neonatal care delivery.



### **Aleeca F. Bell PhD, CNM**

Aleeca F. Bell, PhD, CNM, is an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona. Her 14 years of clinical practice (primarily as a home birth provider in the Chicago area) drives her program of research striving to improve the wellbeing of mothers and infants by promoting physiologic birth, a positive birth experience, healthy mother-infant interaction, and an increased understanding of oxytocin role in perinatal outcomes. Oxytocin is a biologic metaphor for feeling safe and cared for, and can be a perinatal target of innovative evidence-based practice to improve the well-being of vulnerable women and infants. Her current NIH-funded RCT (N=240) will soon serve as a rich database to midwifery researchers containing childbirth variables, and measures before and after birth of psycho-social and oxytocin variables.





### **Katie Daily, CNM, MSN**

Katie Daily is a Certified Nurse Midwife practicing in Washington, DC at Mary's Center, a federally qualified health center. Her clinical work includes full scope care for a diverse population, and Katie is bilingual in Spanish to meet her patients needs. She is the lead clinician for the Healthy Start home visiting program to provide training to staff and medical consultations to clients. She is a faculty member with the Georgetown University School of Nursing Midwifery & Women's Health Program. Her teaching at Georgetown includes leading on campus skills training, clinical faculty advising, and course faculty for intrapartum, postpartum, and newborn care. Her doctoral work in the Georgetown Doctorate of Nursing Practice program is focused on evaluating telehealth prenatal care. She is a contributor to key midwifery textbooks, and a peer reviewer for the Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health. She served on the board of the DC ACNM Chapter.



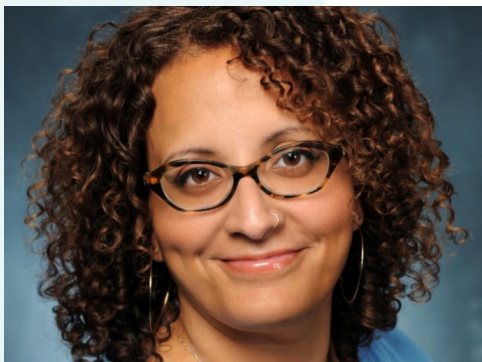
### **Laura Murphy Dellos ARNP, CNM, NCMP**

Laura Murphy Dellos is a 1991 graduate of the UCSF/SFGH Midwifery Education Program and has practiced clinically in California, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa over the past 33 years. Laura is currently at the University of Iowa and is faculty in the recently established UIHC Nurse Midwifery Education Program while continuing full scope midwifery care.



### **Katherine Erbe, CNM, PhD, MS**

Katherine is currently the Connell Postdoctoral Fellow in Nursing Research at the Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research at Massachusetts General Hospital. She has worked as a nurse-midwife for over 17 years. She has worked in a variety of settings and has been a preceptor for students and medical residents. She has worked globally with multiple groups including Midwives for Haiti and Doctors Without Borders. Her research focuses on optimizing pregnancy nutrition in vulnerable populations, specifically those with food insecurity and pregnant individuals of color.



### **Mari-Carmen Farmer, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC**

Mari-Carmen Farmer is a first-generation Afro-Latina midwife who has been engaged in reproductive justice work for over 20 years. Prior to midwifery, Mari-Carmen completed a degree in Sociology and became engaged in activism and community organizing. She is an Americorps alum, a seasoned doula and childbirth educator, an experienced facilitator, and a mentor and leader in the local midwifery community. Since graduating from the midwifery program at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016, Mari-Carmen has been providing midwifery care for families from a wide range of cultures in Philadelphia. She is also the founder of Midwife y Maestra, a consulting collaborative focused on building capacity and nurturing community among midwives. Mari-Carmen's professional interests include promoting health equity, reducing trauma for patients and providers in healthcare environments, fostering interprofessional collaboration in reproductive health care, and normalizing the use of narratives to center the patient experience in health care delivery.



### **Denise Fryzelka, CNM, PhD**

Denise Fryzelka has over 26 years as a Certified Nurse Midwife. She completed her PhD in 2019 at Marquette University, and her research was focused on Healthcare Provider Influence on Health Behavioral Modification in Gestational Diabetics. She is currently working at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics precepting students and serves as a gestational diabetes content expert. In addition, she works at Grow Midwives as a consultant and coach for CNMs. She has received the Leadership Development for private practice development awards from the ACNM foundation and an ACNM Excellence in Teaching Award while faculty at the University of Kansas. She has a broad portfolio of international work, including leading trainings in Switzerland, China, and Guatemala. Most notably, she also was a co-founder and served as a director for the Maison de Naissance-Birth Center in Haiti, which is still operating today.



### **Eva Fried, CNM, DNP, WHNP**

Eva is the Clinical Director for the Nurse-Midwifery and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner programs at Frontier Nursing University, the current Chair of the ACME Board of Commissioners and Chair of the ACNM Publications Committee. Eva and her wife Amy live in Columbus, Ohio, have 6 adult children and also own a fabric and yarn shop. Eva wants to thank all of her midwifery and academic mentors (too many to name!) especially ACNM Fellows Jennifer Demma and Karen Trister Grace for hiring her for her first academic role and being patient and inspiring mentors.



### **Linda George, CNM, MSN**

Linda is a Class 4 graduate of Frontier Nursing University and has practiced in rural South Carolina for the majority of my career. I have been very active in our South Carolina Affiliate and served as President of the Affiliate for many consecutive years. I am currently the Affiliate Treasurer. I work with our affiliate and NP colleagues on multiple legislative issues pertaining to advancement of APRN and CNM practice, such as prescriptive authority and full scope practice. Currently, I am part of the team of SC CNMs working to initiate a midwifery education program in South Carolina. Nationally, I serve on the Affiliate Development and Support Committee. I am active in reproductive and sexual health initiatives in South Carolina serving on the Board of Directors for Darlington County First Steps. I am a member of the Advisory Council for Fact Forward, which advocates for teen reproductive health.



### **L. Amy Giles, DNP, CNM, LSMC**

Amy graduated from Parkland School of Nurse-Midwifery in 2002. She transitioned into community birth. She owns Allen Midwifery & Family Wellness, a birth-center and hospital practice in Allen, TX, where she was the first birth-center CNM to obtain hospital privileges. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor University. She has served as a preceptor for nurse-practitioner and nurse-midwifery students and received ACNM's Outstanding Preceptor Award in 2018. Amy has served as secretary and treasurer of the Texas chapter of ACNM and ACNM's Program Committee and Core Competency Review Committee. In 2023, she received her certification in Lifestyle Medicine. Amy worked on the Texas Mortality Review Committee and served on the steering committee of the TexasAIM Birth Center Workshops. Her area of scholarship is community birth and prevention of chronic disease through lifestyle modification. Amy feels grateful for the families and students who have touched her life along the way.



### **Greta Gill, MSN, CNM**

Greta is the Director of Midwifery for El Rio Health in Tucson. Board certified in 2000, Greta has provided community and hospital birth care but found her calling in community health where she has worked since 2008. As a clinician leader, Greta is passionate about building models of care which support all levels of patient care needs and promote midwife led care within the larger health system. She is champion of innovation, with achievements such as the implementation of an accredited Alongside Midwifery Unit and Midwifery residency for new graduate CNMs. When not practicing midwifery, Greta spends her time in family life and practicing Hatha yoga.



### **Nathan Guerette, CNM, FNP-C, MSN**

Nathan "Nate" Guerette graduated from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 2013 and has practiced midwifery at the University of South Florida for the entirety of his 10-year career. As Director of Outpatient Midwifery and Obstetrics his work has focused on patient safety and care quality initiatives and mentoring less experienced midwives in growing their clinical skills and scope. He is active in the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative and is a certified Epic EMR Provider Builder. In addition to regularly precepting nurse-midwifery students as Adjunct Faculty at his alma mater, Nate helped to significantly expand the role of midwives in medical student and resident education at his institution. Nate is most proud that he helped to create, grow, and sustain a robust Gender Affirming Clinic that is one of the few of its kind in the Tampa Bay Region.





### **Priscilla Hall, PhD, CNM**

Priscilla Hall is an Assistant Professor at Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She lectures on maternal child nursing, midwifery, evidence-based practice, and works in the maternity Simulation Lab. Priscilla's research focuses on agency in childbirth, and on care practices that support normal healthy childbirth within the hospital as well as out of hospital settings. Priscilla is a co-author of the 2018 study "Neonatal Outcomes of Waterbirth," and the 2022 meta-analysis of maternal and neonatal outcomes of waterbirth, "Systematic review and meta-analysis to examine intrapartum interventions, and maternal and neonatal outcomes following immersion in water during labor and waterbirth." Priscilla received her PhD from the Laney Graduate School at Emory University, where she received the Silver Bowl Award for outstanding work as a PhD candidate. Her dissertation was titled: "Keeping it together and falling apart: women's experiences of childbirth."



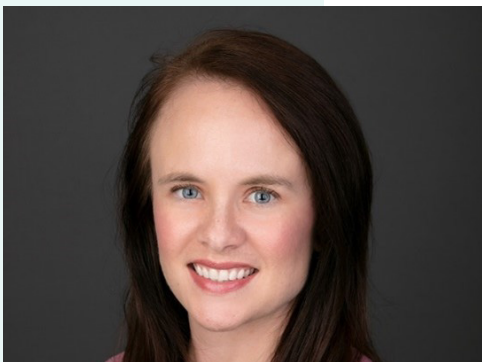
### **Nancy Harmon, CNM, MSN**

Nancy is passionate about Rural Health Care in low resource areas, so she opened a Homebirth practice in 2002, providing care in 19 counties, while also working with NCACNM to achieve Independent Practice in 2023. After five years in Southern Africa, supporting breastfeeding, clean water, and protein supplementation of under-fives, she returned in 1991 for midwifery school at Frontier. Her first job, as a full scope midwife at Womack Army Medical Center, included precepting student midwives, nurse practitioners, PA's and residents. She worked for 14 years in Women's Health at her County Health Department, where she was part of the Change Team, whose mission was to create an antiracist institution. Recently, Nancy did Public Health field work in Jamkhed, India, developing a gestational diabetes teaching module for Village Health workers. She also serves on community boards and is a church musician and choir director.



### **Martha Harvey, MSN, CNM, OB/GYN NP**

Martha has for the last 30+ years I have had the privilege and honor of calling myself a midwife. My family would tell you that I'm addicted to magic. On May 31, 2020, I signed my last birth certificate. Volunteering at COVID vaccination clinics was the least I could do for my rural community. I now provide GYN services in a local Primary Care office. It is wonderful having this relationship from attending births and now providing rewarding continuity of care for their children. Providing education and precepting the next generation of midwives is so important. Being a Regional Clinical Faculty Frontier Nursing University is just the right fit for me. I can now "midwife" the next generation. I often tell my students, "Midwives are only two degrees of separation and a tight knit group". I see myself as being a midwife forever.



### **Melissa Hatter, CNM, PMH-C, MSN, RN**

Melissa has practiced as a full-scope Certified Nurse-Midwife for 12 years in Alabama and Georgia. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Nursing at Georgia State University with a research focus on postpartum depression. Melissa is passionate about education for herself, her students, and her patients. She has participated in the clinical training of dozens of students in nursing and medicine, including nurse-midwifery and physician assistant students from programs across the United States. Melissa is proud to be a part of the nurse-midwifery community and is excited about what being inducted as a Fellow of ACNM means for her personally and professionally.



### **Michele A. Helgeson, CNM, DNP, MPH**

Michele enthusiastically began practicing in 1985 and has provided sensitive full scope midwifery care in a variety of settings including birth center, community hospital, academic medical center, and community health center. She has held several administrative positions and has been a co-owner of an independent midwife practice. She earned her MPH from Boston University School of Public Health and her DNP from Frontier Nursing University and is the recipient of the Maternal Child Health Leadership Award and the Maternal Child Health Alumni for Outstanding Service, both from Boston University. She stopped clinical work in 2021 and has shifted her focus to policy and advocacy. She is currently a founding partner of The Midwife Solution, a platform that advocates for increased access to midwives in Massachusetts as part of the solution to the current maternal health crisis.



### **Amelia Henning, MSN, CNM, IBCLC**

Amelia Henning, CNM, MSN, IBCLC is the Director of the Mass General Hospital Lactation Program, a staff midwife in the Midwifery Division of the Department of OB/GYN at Mass General, and a teaching associate with Harvard Medical School. She has a clinical interest in promoting breastfeeding and lactation, and provides care throughout pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and lactation. Amelia co-founded the Midwives in Lactation Collective in 2022, and is passionate about the role of midwives in care of the new dyad. She is a leader on the lactation & breastfeeding related committees within MGH, is a member of the MA Breastfeeding Coalition, and sits on the MA WIC Medical Advisory Board. Amelia completed her midwifery education at the University of Pennsylvania and holds a BA from Wheaton College.



### **Hayley Hoffman, CNM, IBCLC**

Hayley is a Midwife working in Baltimore, MD at Columbia Women's Ob/Gyn Group. She is currently doing her fellowship in Breastfeeding Medicine through the University of Rochester. She is one of the founding members of the Midwives in Lactation Subcommittee of ACNM. She is the secretary of the Maryland Affiliate of ACNM. She previously founded and ran the outpatient breastfeeding medicine clinic at the University of Maryland, and was involved in medical student, resident, and fellow education. Her special interests include tongue ties, perinatal mood disorders, diabetes in pregnancy and providing fourth trimester support.



### **Marianna Sarai Holland, DNP, CNM**

Marianna Holland is owner of a birth center in Arizona currently led by midwives of color. She practices full scope midwifery in home, birth center, and hospital and is an advocate for midwifery education and life-long learning. She is faculty at the University of Arizona's doctoral program with a focus on midwifery education. Marianna is a preceptor to several midwifery programs and active in local midwifery organizations working to support midwifery collaboration.



### **Jennifer Kelley, CNM, MS**

Jennifer is a seasoned Certified Nurse-Midwife boasting two decades of expertise, delivers comprehensive midwifery care at Trinity Health IHA in Ann Arbor. In her current capacity as Trinity's Regional Clinical Director of the Midwifery Program for Southeast Michigan, she has been instrumental in the inception of a thriving midwifery practice at Trinity Livonia. A distinguished alumna of the University of Michigan's Midwifery program, her commitment to nurturing the next generation of nurse-midwives shines through in her mentorship of students and the training of new graduate midwives. She actively champions educational initiatives within her practice, fostering collaboration with the resident team. Her dedication extends globally, having participated in outreach in East Timor to enhance midwifery and health care access for patients in remote areas. At the core of her mission is a fervent dedication to shared decision-making and patient empowerment, coupled with a steadfast resolve to elevate the voice of midwifery in strategic organizational decision-making processes.



### **Katie Kivlighan, MS, PhD, CNM**

Katie Kivlighan, MS, PhD, CNM is an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM) College of Nursing, where she teaches in the UNM Nurse-Midwifery Program. Her goal is to improve screening, support, and treatment for lactation challenges and she has built a research program focused on clinical, behavioral, and physiological influences on breastfeeding and lactation. She has been serving New Mexico families as a certified nurse-midwife for 10 years. She is also a co-director of the UNM Birth Companion Program, a birth-justice focused program that aims to provide respectful, compassionate, and non-judgmental care in birth.





### **Da'na M. Langford, CNM**

Da'na M. Langford is a certified nurse midwife. She co-founded Village of Healing, a community development organization focused on healing and empowering the village to eliminate social determinants of health and decrease disparities. Under that umbrella The Village of Healing Center was developed to deliver quality health care that meets the social and cultural needs of patients. She founded Da'na M. Langford Consulting, an enterprise focused on uplifting communities and addressing systemic injustices through education, executive coaching, and advocacy. Dana has a passion for the eradication of racial disparities and the communities she serves. She has committed her career to serving, educating, empowering, and advocating for black women. Da'na has a Bachelor of Science in Sports Medicine- Athletic Training and a Master of Science with a specialization in Midwifery and Women's Health. She serves as chair of Enlightened Solutions and a member of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center board. She is a member of the Ohio Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) committee, and member of Ohio Council to Advance Maternal Health.



### **Heidi Loomis, DM, CRNP, CNM**

Heidi enjoys supporting clinical midwifery and women's health nurse practitioner students and their preceptors in her role as Regional Clinical Faculty at Frontier Nursing University. Her recent doctoral research focused on biases that midwifery students across the US experience in their clinical settings – the types and prevalence of bias as well as its impact on midwifery students' learning and commitment to the profession of midwifery. For this work, Heidi received the prestigious American College of Nurse-Midwives Foundation's 2022 W. Newton Long Award for the Advancement of Midwifery. She is a graduate of Juniata College; Yale School of Nursing; Frontier Nursing University; and The Midwifery Institute at Jefferson, College of Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Heidi has practiced as a midwife and FNP for over 3 decades in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.



### **Shannon Maaske, MS, CNM**

Shannon graduated midwifery school at the University of Minnesota in 2005. Has spent her career working with people from all backgrounds in a variety of settings including a FQHC, health department and academic medicine. Is currently a full scope CNM at UNC Healthcare, Adjunct Clinical Instructor at UNC School of Medicine as well as working on several research studies. She's married to Greg and is mom to two teens, Ava and Blake.



### **Emily Malloy, PhD, CNM, APNP**

Dr. Emily Malloy is a Certified Nurse Midwife and Director of Midwifery Research at Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee, WI, USA. She teaches at Marquette University College of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery program. She has been in clinical practice for 12 years. She works closely with Dr. Lisa Hanson and a team of researchers and clinicians who focus on improving outcomes and reducing disparities for pregnant people by researching intrapartum care practices, perinatal microbiome, and low-technology interventions to use during labor and birth. She is an editor of the 5th edition of Simkin's Labor Progress Handbook (2024).



### **Ann McCarthy, MSN, CNM**

Ann has nursing and midwifery degrees from Marquette University and is completing her DNP from Frontier Nursing University. In 2004, she began her midwifery career at a free-standing non-profit birth center in Pittsburgh, PA, and became the Clinical Director in 2010. After 17 years working at the birth center attending hospital and birth center births, she left to pursue her DNP and work as clinical faculty at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, educating medical students, residents, and midwifery students in an urban teaching hospital and a rural community hospital. She hopes to teach midwifery at a university after completing her DNP in June 2024.



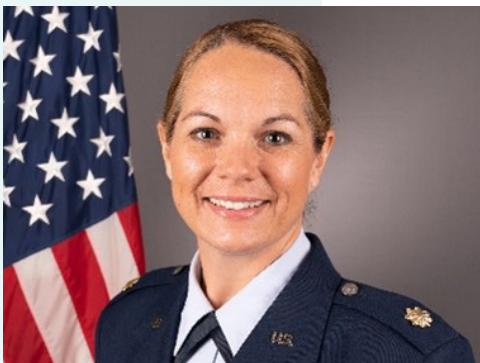
### **Shelley McGrew, DNP, CNM**

Dr. Shelley McGrew has been caring for pregnant people and attending births for 30 years. Her roles have included perinatal massage therapist, childbirth educator, doula, nurse, and midwife. Shelley is a full-scope midwife in Tucson, Arizona serving diverse populations at the FQHC El Rio Health. She recently joined the faculty as an assistant clinical professor for the midwifery program at the University of Arizona.



### **Colleen Moreno, DNP, CNM**

Colleen is the Director of Stanford University's Faculty Nurse Midwifery Service and CenteringPregnancy program, pioneering innovative prenatal care models. With a focus on community and family well-being, she offers both traditional 1:1 and group prenatal care. Passionate about interprofessional education, Colleen plays a pivotal role in Obstetrics and Gynecology resident training, Stanford's Physician Assistant curriculum, and precepting Nurse Midwifery students from various programs nationwide. As an advocate for the midwifery profession, Colleen is the Chair of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of CNMA, focused on a goal to transform the midwifery presence in California to reach its fullest potential.



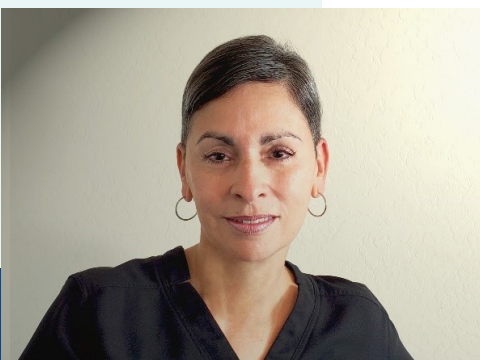
### **Syrah Nicaise, CNM**

Dr. Syrah E. Nicaise has served in the military for twenty-four years with a breadth of experience as an OR technician of a Combat Support Hospital, Perinatal Nurse, Certified Nurse Midwife, Chief Nurse Midwifery officer, and Midwife Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General. She has presented at multiple national and international conferences on topics such as Shared Decision Making and Collaboration, Supporting Physiologic Birth and Safely Reducing the Primary Cesarean Section, The Role of the Military Midwife, and Alternative Pain Relief Methods in Childbirth. Dr. Nicaise has committed her career to improving women's healthcare in the Military Health System serving on multiple committees that have led to significant changes in policies related to parental leave, contraceptive access, reducing health disparities, reproductive rights, and breastfeeding, shipping, and storage of breastmilk for female service members.



### **Sarah Obermeyer, PhD, CNM, WHNP-C, IBCLC, CNE**

Sarah Obermeyer is a certified nurse midwife practicing full-scope midwifery in Los Angeles CA. Sarah practices midwifery in hospital and community birth settings and brings her desire for holistic practice to the clinical setting. In her clinical faculty role at Frontier Nursing University, she works with nurse midwife and women's health nurse practitioner students, supporting their clinical experiences and transition to practice. Her areas of clinical interest include trauma-informed midwifery care, pharmacology, pregnancy loss and grief, and international midwifery practice. Sarah is a spiritual director and co-leads workshops in racial justice.



### **Luna Rodriguez, DNP, CNM, CCTP**

Dr. Luana Rodriguez is a Certified Nurse-Midwife with over three decades of experience across public, private, and federal health sectors. Specializing in culturally sensitive and trauma-informed care, she dedicates her expertise to advancing the health of women of color, with a special focus on Indigenous women. Certified as a Trauma-sensitive HeartMath Practitioner, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Trainer, and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP), Dr. Rodriguez leads in translating the foundational science of trauma and resilience into practice for healthcare professionals and community partners. Furthermore, as the Founder of the nonprofit, Body and Soul Sovereignty United, she champions advocacy and the empowerment of all women to make informed health decisions, aiming to destigmatize trauma's effects and promote personal sovereignty in health. Through her visionary work, Dr. Rodriguez seeks to interrupt the cycle of inter and transgenerational trauma, paving the way toward health and well-being for future generations.





### **Sharon Ruyak, CNM, PhD**

Sharon Ruyak is an Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico, College of Nursing. She received her BSN (1987) from Towson University, Maryland, her MS (1997) from Georgetown University, Washington DC, and her PhD from University of Colorado, Denver. Sharon has practiced as a midwife in a variety of settings including public health clinics and hospital and private practices. Her research focuses on the biobehavioral contributions of chronic stress to adverse pregnancy outcomes in the maternal-infant dyad, particularly perinatal mental health. Sharon is also a Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health State Policy Fellow. She is a wife, mother, and a Nana.



### **Katie Schulz, CNM**

Katie Schulz is a Navy Nurse Corps Officer and Certified Nurse Midwife. Katie is currently serving at the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as the Director for Secondary and Specialty Care and as the Head of the Office of Women's Health. She is also concurrently serving as the Specialty Leader for the Nurse Midwife community and is an advisor to the Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and Navy Surgeon General. Katie has leveraged her professional expertise to drive forward policies and initiatives that promote the health and wellness of female Sailors and Marines and ensures access to critical women's health care within the Department of Defense. She has led the implementation of several process improvement initiatives at multiple Military Treatment Facilities including Postpartum Hemorrhage Safety Bundles and the stand up of Walk-In Contraception Clinics.



### **Kathleen Scott, DNP, CNM**

Kathleen Scott became a CNM in 2008, while raising 3 children alone as her husband deployed in defense of our country. She is committed to improving perinatal health outcomes within her community to decrease the maternal morbidity and mortality rates with her involvement in local nonprofit groups. The results of her DNP project, a project focused on identifying and treating anxiety and depression antenatally, influenced, and improved care provided to patients. She cofounded a volunteer doula program using allied health students to provide bedside support for long term antepartum and intrapartum patients. She works with local doula organizations, improving their continued educational opportunities and fostering cohesive integration into the birth team. Throughout her career she has taught a multitude of students and residents, nurturing a commitment to evidence based and compassionate care. Her innovative approach to teaching earned her the Excellence in Educational Service award through the University of Nebraska.



### **Laura Sheperis, MS, CM, RN**

Laura is proud to be a Certified Midwife (CM) since 2005. She has worked in full scope midwifery practice in hospital settings in New York City, as a humanitarian aid worker providing sexual and reproductive health care internationally with Doctors Without Borders, and, most recently, as a clinician at Planned Parenthood in California. She is grateful for the wide range of experiences she has had, the clients who have entrusted their health care to her, and for the midwife mentors who have supported her along the way. She looks forward to her upcoming move to Denver, CO, where she will continue working with Planned Parenthood.



### **Kathrine Simon, DNP, APRN, CNM**

Kathrine Simon is the midwifery program manager for Allina Health. Prior to joining Allina Health in 2016, she owned and operated the North Metro Midwives, P.A. clinic. The practice was sold to Allina Health to continue the mission of family centered, evidence-based, trauma informed care that is driven by quality metrics and aimed at reducing the overall cost of care. Kathrine's passion is to empower the birthing individual and their families and to help to reduce the disparity within the health care delivery system.





### **Emily Slocum, CNM, MSN**

Dr. Emily Slocum has practiced midwifery for almost 20 years, having served diverse communities in the Bronx and Nashville, Tenn., as well as in the Democratic Republic of Congo with Doctors Without Borders. Emily is deeply passionate about educating new midwives; she holds a doctorate in nursing practice and a post-master's certificate in education from Vanderbilt University. Emily serves as full-time faculty in the midwifery department at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She lives with her husband on Manhattan's Lower East Side.



### **Lori Swain, DNP, CNM**

Lori is a 2016 graduate from Oregon Health Science University and has been in full-time clinical practice for eight years, serving families at a busy rural community hospital in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. She is actively involved in mentoring and precepting students, and in 2022 was awarded Outstanding Preceptor. Lori is a past president and board member of the Oregon Affiliate and past race director for the Affiliate fun-run, Miles for Midwives. Most recently, she is proud to be part of organizing the midwifery practices within the Legacy hospital system to form a labor union. Currently, her efforts are focused on the union's bargaining team where they are working to arrive at a historic contract that promotes the midwives' collective wellbeing and provides protections for preserving the midwifery model of care within our hospital system.



### **Sarah R. Weinstein, MN, CNM, IBCLC, PMH-C**

Sarah is a certified nurse-midwife specializing in breastfeeding and lactation care and perinatal mental health. After becoming a midwife in 2014, she caught babies both in and out of the hospital, and has lived and worked in rural and urban New Mexico and Arizona. Sarah is currently part of an interdisciplinary community lactation practice, and has returned to community midwifery with her homebirth midwife partner where they center accessibility and family building with home IUI. She is the co-chair of the AZ ACNM advocacy committee, and is a founding member of the new ACNM breastfeeding subcommittee. She is a mentor with the University of Rochester's lactation fellowship program (LILAC), and is working on a PhD at the University of Arizona College Nursing. Sarah is a mama to a small five-year-old boy with a big personality, and their three opinionated cats, and relies heavily on yoga and laughter.



### **Nicole Lynne Wheeler, DNP, CNM**

For the past five years, Dr. Wheeler led the Midwifery Program at Wayne State University, revamping the curriculum to meet changing needs, especially during COVID. With nine years' focus on graduate nursing education, she guided Nurse Midwifery students' development and contributed as a book reviewer. Her impactful work includes publications in peer-reviewed journals, national presentations, and authorship in well-known interdisciplinary chapters. Noteworthy achievements include serving as a Co-Principal Investigator on a \$2.6 million HRSA ANEW grant integrating Student Nurse Midwives into underserved Metro Detroit clinics (2018-2022), addressing healthcare disparities and preparing students for national certification. She is currently serving as Principal Investigator and leading a similar \$2.6 million HRSA ANEW grant (2023-2027) for Family and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners in Metro Detroit and Flint communities continuing a commitment to dismantling healthcare disparities for underserved populations and increasing the presence of minority Nurse Practitioners in the healthcare community.



### **Janet A. Williams, DNP, MSM, CNM**

Janet is the CEO of Transitions Women's Health LLC. A board-certified nurse midwife with 20 years of experience in a hospital midwifery practice, Dr. J is a recognized maternal health and bias training expert. She is "the Conversation Starter." She is a consultant, author, and creator of B.L.A.C.K. Mothers Interrupted. This proprietary framework guides healthcare providers through education about implicit bias and racism and their effect on maternal care delivery.

"... because babies should go home in their mother's arms." Dr. J



### **Jennifer Williams, CNM**

Jennifer Williams, CNM, has been practicing midwifery in New Mexico since 2003. In addition to having the honor of taking care of families, Jennifer enjoys teaching and mentoring new midwives and other healthcare students. She lives in Corrales with her family and a number of animal friends. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out with her grandbabies, cardioboxing and taking naps.



### **Andrew Youmans, MSN, CNM, RN, AACC, FAWM**

Andrew has focused his work on reducing maternal mortality and morbidity by combining his experience as a midwife and as a cardiovascular nurse. He is actively involved in multiple professional organizations, including ACNM, American College of Cardiology, and the Wilderness Medical Society. He has represented ACNM on the AIM Sepsis in Obstetrical Care Bundle, and currently serves on the ACNM Foundation Board. Andrew has also worked to represent midwifery in the cardiology community. Recently he served on the planning committee and as a moderator for the American College of Cardiology's Heart House Roundtable on Reproductive Health and Cardio-Obstetrics. Andrew is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Michigan.





