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HPNA and HPNF President-Elect Will Be Organizations’ First President of Color

Every February, the United States recognizes Black History Month to honor the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape and grow our nation. The 2022 theme for Black History Month is Black Health and Wellness, which honors medical scholars and healthcare providers. The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) is proud to recognize and honor Michelle Webb, DNP, RN, BC-CHPCA, in her role as president-elect.

Black History Month originated in 1915 through the work of Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland, who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). In 1925 ASNLH, known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, sponsored a national Negro History Week and chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

In 2021, HPNA inducted Webb into the role of president-elect of HPNA and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation (HPNF). She will begin serving her role as president in January 2023. Webb will be the first person of color serving in the role of president in the history of both organizations.

“While I may be in line to be the first person of color serving as president for the HPNA and HPNF Board of Directors, I am confident that I will not be the last. HPNA has a clear path to ensuring its membership reflects the growing diversity in the specialty, the nursing profession, and the patients and families we serve,” Webb said. “HPNA has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Our new strategic plan includes initiatives to equip professionals with the resources they need to better serve the diverse population of individuals who need excellent care for serious illness. I am excited to have the opportunity to continue to be a part of providing the leadership needed to ensure HPNA achieves its diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging goals.”

“As representatives of the hospice and palliative nursing community, HPNA is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Dr. Webb’s impressive accomplishments and leadership acumen will serve our membership with the highest level of professionalism and advocacy,” said Holli Martinez, MSN, FNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN, current president of the association and the foundation.
About HPNA and HPNF
HPNA was established in 1986 and is the national professional organization that represents the specialty of palliative nursing, which includes hospice and palliative nurses. It supports the profession through education programs, research initiatives, and advocacy.

HPNF was established in 1998. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the major initiatives of HPNA and the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center and provides numerous scholarships, grants, and award opportunities. It provides professional development opportunities to qualified members of the hospice and palliative care team. HPNF depends on the generous spirit of donors to financially support its mission.

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