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**Ara Kim**  
**President**

Hello, New Jersey nursing students! My name is Ara Kim and I am so excited and humbled to have been elected as your 2018-2019 President of the New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS). Since joining the board last year as the Membership/Nominations Director, my passion and appreciation for the mission of the National Students Association (NSNA) and NJNS, and the nursing profession as a whole, has exponentially increased. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to helping the nursing students of New Jersey. Serving on the state board is a huge responsibility, but a very rewarding one. I am so proud of what the 2017-2018 board was able to accomplish together and I am so

excited to see where NJNS will continue to grow with the new 2018-2019 board.

I found nursing as I started exploring the different career paths in medicine. Having experienced the compassionate touch of nurses who would care for my family and friends, I quickly realized that nursing was where I belonged and had the most potential to make an impact in someone's life. I want to be the person standing next to a loved one, providing words of support and care throughout the healing process. I currently aspire to become a skilled intensive care unit (ICU) nurse and then enlist in the military as a nurse officer.

I am currently pursuing a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN) at Rutgers School of Nursing (RUSON) in New Brunswick and will be entering my final year this coming 2018-2019 school year! I am just as excited to be graduating as I was to be starting this journey and I am so thankful that I have had the opportunity to share my experiences with the other board members. During my time at Rutgers University, I have been quite active in other student leadership positions. I work with other students in the Rutgers Student Nurses' Association as an

academic assistance chair, treasurer, and also as president. In addition I work on the RUSON senate as the academic affairs representative and as a peer mentor. I believe that my experience in these positions will help me bring fresh ideas to the state board.

Aside from my academics, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, as well as being active in the outdoors! If I'm not in the library studying, you can catch me at the gym or planning another trip to climb, hike, or even scuba dive!

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president this year and I am excited to see what this year will bring. Please feel free to contact me at [arakatherine97@gmail.com](mailto:arakatherine97@gmail.com) with any questions or ideas that you may have.





**Kerry Conboy**  
First Vice President

Hello! My name is Kerry Conboy and I am the 2018-2019 First Vice President for New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS). I started my nursing journey at Bergen Community College (BCC) where I received an associate's degree in science. I also received an award for graduating with a 4.0 average and for being in the top 1% of my class. I knew nursing was the career for me because I have compassion for people and the satisfaction of helping others. After BCC I transferred to Felician University where I am currently a junior. I was a delegate at the 2017 NJNS convention in Atlantic City where I decided to run for, and won, the position as Legislation Director for the 2017-2018 year. I led the bylaws discussion at the House of Delegates (HOD) at the 66<sup>th</sup> annual NJNS convention. For the 2018-2019 term I am the First Vice President. I can't wait to have another successful year and help build the bridge between nursing students and the nursing profession.

Please contact me at [conboykerry1996@gmail.com](mailto:conboykerry1996@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



**Athena Alvarado**  
Second Vice President

My name is Athena Alvarado, I am honored and deeply humbled to have been elected as the 2018-2019 Second Vice President for the New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS). I am in my third semester at JFK Muhlenberg Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder School of Nursing, and am very excited to be pursuing a career in a profession that I am passionate about with the encouragement and support of friends, colleagues, and peers. Part of what I enjoy most about nursing is the connectedness of the nursing community and our collected passion for advocating and making a difference in people's lives, Though implemented at the bedside with patient care, making a difference begins behind the scenes with organizations such as this one.

NJNS is an amazing organization that brings student nurses from across the state to network, gain knowledge, ask questions, and help guide us as we navigate our way through the world of nursing. Although I have been very active with this organization since last year, attending the Council of School Participants (COSP) workshop, volunteering, attending meetings, and participating in the annual NJNS convention; this is my first year as an active board member for NJNS. Since attending

COSP and seeing how involved this organization is with the community, I knew right away that this was something I wanted to experience.

I started my path into nursing many years ago. Like many student's coming out of high school, I was not entirely sure what I wanted to do with my life. I did know that I wanted a life and career in which I could impact people's lives in a positive manner and make a difference on a larger scale. I graduated from Middlesex County College with an associate's degree as an allied health pre-professional, while working full time and being an active member in my community. After high school I worked as a medical secretary for a rehabilitation and nursing home; it was there that I began to expand my knowledge. While working at the nursing home, I was able to observe and ask questions about the field and, in less than a year I became a certified nurse's aide. I became a medical assistant and worked for four years in a pediatrician's office. While working in the pediatric practice I knew, this was where my path was leading.

I have never looked back, and pushed forward to make my dreams a reality.

It is my mission to ignite a flame that will open the minds of upcoming generations to be involved and make a difference in our world. It is my belief that with hard work and perseverance any goal is attainable.

If you have any questions, ideas, or just simply want to know more about what NJNS has to offer; please feel free to contact me at [2ndvp@njnsinc.org](mailto:2ndvp@njnsinc.org). I look forward to seeing you and making real connections.



**Dominique Flores  
Secretary**

Hello, New Jersey nursing students. My name is Dominique Flores and I am serving as the secretary of the New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS). I am enrolled as a senior in Rutgers University School of Nursing in Newark to pursue my bachelor's of science degree in nursing and will be working as a nurse's aide at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell.

Throughout my college career, I've participated in many nursing organizations and activities - as an assistant with undergraduate research, committee member of Rutgers University School of Nursing (RUSON) Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee, Vice President/Secretary of the Class Council 2019, and Academic Affairs chairperson of the Student Senate. Participating in various organizations has allowed me grow and find my niche in nursing while tremendously improving my leadership skills. Having attended the NJNS convention as a delegate last year, I was inspired by the organization's passion in providing resources and helping students aspire to be the best nurses that they can be. Ultimately, it inspired me to run for the board as secretary.

I'm concurrently serving as a senior peer mentor, peer tutor, Newark representative of Rutgers Student Nurses Association (RSNA), and President at Large of RUSON Student Senate for the academic school year 2018-2019.

Outside of nursing, I enjoy spending time with my family, friends and indulging in my hobbies. I'm a fitness enthusiast interested in boxing and pilates. Having played competitive volleyball for many years, exercise and self-care have always been important to me.

To find out more about NJNS and the decisions made in our board meetings, see our monthly meeting minutes posted located in the resources section of our website.

Feel free to contact me at [secretary@njnsinc.org](mailto:secretary@njnsinc.org) with questions or concerns.

**Bakhshish Kaur  
Treasurer**

Hello, New Jersey nursing students! My name is Bakhshish Kaur and I am pleased to be serving as the Treasurer for the New Jersey Nursing Student Inc. (NJNS) for 2018-2019. I started my journey of becoming a nurse at Felician University where I will be pursuing a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN). The journey of becoming a nurse started but the dream to serve and help one in need are thoughts that motivated me. This might be my first actual leadership position after my high school years but the passion and dedication of working with a team to help others has not decreased. I served as a delegate during the

2018 convention after which I was elected to this position. It's my honor to be serving in this position to which I will bring my compassion and dedication. I strongly believe a true leader in any position is not one who works as a *single* but is actually someone who works in a *Single Unit*. With that thought in mind I cannot wait to collaborate with the 2018-2019 board members to enhance my leadership skills. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at [treasurer@njnsinc.org](mailto:treasurer@njnsinc.org).



**Jane Ehlers  
Breakthrough to Nursing Director**

Hello. New Jersey nursing students. I am Jane Ehlers and I have the honor of serving as the Breakthrough to Nursing Director for New Jersey Student Nurses, Inc. for the 2018-2019 year. I am grateful and honored to be a part of an organization responsible for the professional development of nursing students. I am currently pursuing a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) at Rutgers School of Nursing in New Brunswick with an anticipated graduation date of 2019.

In my time at Rutgers University I have had the privilege of serving on the Community Outreach Committee as well as a Peer Mentor. Both of these roles have

strengthened my love for nursing and allowed me to understand the struggles that come with being a nursing student. I am excited to be able to inspire and educate potential nursing students about what it means to be a nursing student. My goals for this year are to continue the work in promoting a positive image of nursing and increasing diversity in the nursing field.

Feel free to reach out to me at [janeehlers@gmail.com](mailto:janeehlers@gmail.com) with any ideas or questions you may have!



**Glorianna Desrosiers**  
Pulsebeat Editor/Public Relations Director

My name is Glorianna Desrosiers. I am honored and excited to serve as the 2018-2019 *Pulsebeat* Editor/Public Relations Director of the New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS). I am a second year registered nursing student at Essex County College graduating in May 2019. Post graduation, I look forward to entering a bachelor's of science program and ultimately completing a doctorate of nursing practice degree.

I have always been passionate about healthcare. Therefore, I wanted a career in which I could make a difference in the health industry. After working in a

medical office and volunteering, I found nursing. I realized that nurses are crucial members of the healthcare team. They have the power to improve healthcare and have a positive impact on the community.

Attending the 2018 convention reminded me that I want to be a nurse to make a difference. Thus, when I saw that the position for *Pulsebeat* Editor was vacant, I saw a great opportunity to get involved. I knew that being a member of the NJNS board would be an opportunity to grow as a leader. Reading the description of the position, made me realize that my attention to detail, determination, and resourcefulness would make me a perfect fit. Seeing the unity of the board members and the support from the advisors, I knew that I would be part of a wonderful team that shares the same interests as I have.

Feedback is always welcome, so please feel free to contact me at [pulsebeat@njnsinc.org](mailto:pulsebeat@njnsinc.org) with any questions or ideas.



**Gillian Wendowski**  
Resolutions Director

Hello, New Jersey nursing students. My name is Gillian Wendowski and I am honored to be your 2018-2019 Resolutions Director. While

attending this year's convention, my second year serving as a delegate, I was fascinated by the position of Resolutions Director. The privilege to promote and bring awareness to the community of student nurses and healthcare providers enticed me. I am privileged to have this opportunity and excited to be serving the distinguished New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS).

I am currently working on my associate's in applied science in nursing at Eastern International College (EIC). At EIC I am the student council president of the Belleville campus. In this position, I have the privilege to enhance student life at our college.

I started my journey in healthcare after my third child, when I trained to be a certified nursing assistant (CNA). Soon after that, I became a patient care technician in trauma and orthopedics. I became an emergency medical technician (EMS) after my fourth child was born. Once my youngest started school, it was time to continue my quest to achieve my educational goals in the science of nursing. I am excited for this opportunity to add the professional experience of the organization to my educational journey.

I feel truly blessed for this opportunity to learn a different level of leadership which is available through this organization. Being a board member of NJNS will advance my skills to advocate with conviction and reach a larger number of prospective recipients. As a member of the board of directors, I will increase my leadership skills and maximize my ability to help others, at the bedside

as a nurse and at the side of my colleagues.

If you have any questions or ideas for the NJNS resolution, please contact me at [gwendowski@gmail.com](mailto:gwendowski@gmail.com).



**Kinara Patel**  
Membership/Nominations Director

Hello, New Jersey nursing students! My name is Kinara Patel and I am serving as the Membership/Nominations Director of New Jersey Student Nurses, Inc. (NJNS) for the 2018-2019 year. I am currently a senior at Rutgers School of Nursing in New Brunswick and anticipate graduating in May, 2019 with a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN).

This March I was honored to represent Rutgers University New Brunswick as a delegate for the NJNS convention in Atlantic City. As a delegate, I used my voice in deciding changes that needed to be made to NJNS bylaws and determining the business of the organization. I was also nominated as a member of the NJNS board. Along with being a board member, I have spent many years

volunteering in different areas of the healthcare system, resulting in a stronger appreciation of nursing that guided me into my major.

As Membership/Nominations Director, I plan to work with my passionate board members to reach more student nurses throughout New Jersey and educate them about NJNS and the opportunities, resources and events that NJNS has to offer. My goal is to increase attendance at the annual NJNS convention, and at our Council of School Participants (COSP) workshop by not only increasing the number of students in generic programs but also from second degree programs.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Membership/Nominations Director this year and I am excited to see what this year will bring. Please feel free to contact me at [membership@njnsinc.org](mailto:membership@njnsinc.org) with any questions or ideas that you may have. Hope to see you at our events.



**Naykis Arias**  
Health Policy and Advocacy Director

Hello, New Jersey nursing students! My name is Naykis Arias and I'm honored to serve as the 2018-2019 Health Policy and Advocacy

Director of the New Jersey Nursing Students Inc. (NJNS). I'm currently enrolled at Mercer County Community College (MCCC) School of Nursing pursuing a double major in nursing and applied health science, I will be graduating on December 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, and I am making plans to start my bachelor's at Rutgers University in the Spring of 2019.

Nursing is my second career, but it has quickly become my passion. After entering the professional phase of the nursing program at MCCC, I was attracted by the student nurses' association (SNA); I am the current President. I have worked with my advisor to increase our NSNA membership, to raise awareness of participation in local and state professional organizations, to explore the skills that can be gained, and to promote participation in extracurricular activities, all to enhance students' knowledge of the nursing profession.

As Policy and Advocacy Director, my goal is to share the importance of our input in policies and procedures governing our health care system with other nursing students. As nurses, our duty and obligations are to provide high-quality patient care; we are our patients' advocates and protectors. There is no better place to ensure high-quality care than being among the leaders making those policies and procedure.

I am humbled to be given the opportunity to be part of this organization and to learn from the advisors and fellow board members.

If you have any questions about healthcare policies, please contact me at [legislation@njnsinc.org](mailto:legislation@njnsinc.org).



I hope to one day make an impact on both patients and nurses alike, both at the bedside or while advocating for policy change. Inspired by my peers and professors to keep moving forward, I cannot wait to see what this year has in store! Please feel to contact me at [nicole.bathan@rutgers.edu](mailto:nicole.bathan@rutgers.edu) with any questions or ideas you may have.

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@NJNSInc

**Nicole Bathan**  
**Population and Global Health**  
**Director**

Hello New Jersey nursing students! My name is Nicole Bathan and I am honored to be your Population and Global Health Director for the 2018-2019 school year. I am a rising senior at the Rutgers University School of Nursing in New Brunswick.

I have always had a passion for healthcare; upon further reflection, I realized that nursing was the right path for me. I've had the opportunity to work in skilled nursing facilities and various hospitals, and have realized the impact that one can have as a nurse. I work with various civic engagement organizations, empowering students across NJ to make change. At Rutgers, I am President of my class and have been involved with the Institute of Domestic and International Affairs. Through this exposure, I have developed an interest in nursing's role in public policy. As the Population and Global Health Director, I educate others on relevant health issues that affect our daily lives.

In my spare time, I learn about photography, travel to new places, and watch movies!

**Network with the BEST at NJNS!**

