

## **Marie Prothero, PhD, RN, FACHE**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Marie Prothero has over 35 years of experience in hospital and nurse executive roles, a strong focus on developing teams related to patient safety, performance improvement, and hospital operations. She currently serves as an assistant professor and the undergraduate program coordinator at Brigham Young University, College of Nursing in Provo, Utah. Dr. Prothero is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and has actively participated in local community boards and nursing leadership boards/committees at the national and local levels. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Utah's College of Nursing, where she was recognized as a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar. Her research interests center around medical errors, nursing leadership, and organizational support in hospital settings.

### **STATEMENTS**

- 1. Statement describing the biggest issue facing AONL and potential strategies to address the issue.**

AONL faces challenges akin to nursing, such as how to best support nurse leaders (NLs) in tackling organizational hurdles, nurse recruitment/retention, staff well-being, and workplace violence. AONL can aid NLs with education/tools to combat staffing shortages, guide partnerships with academia to increase nursing graduates, provide resources for staff well-being, advocate policies protecting healthcare workers from violence, and be the preferred hub for future nurse leaders to hone leadership skills for success. Understanding and supporting NLs in their work and recruiting the next generation of NLs as the nurse leader workforce ages is vital to the organization's success.

- 2. Please describe your actions to increase diversity, equity and inclusion within your organization or community.**

I serve on the Belonging Council (BC) and the Admissions Committee (AC). The BC recently diversified its membership to include students of color and international students. Their valuable perspectives have enriched discussions on fostering inclusivity. Over the past year, student-designed quarterly events have been held. All students were surveyed to assess the presence of equity and inclusion in study abroad opportunities and capstone placements. The Admission Committee employs a holistic approach, utilizing non-gender pronouns, essays, and diverse inclusion criteria beyond conventional grades and ACT scores to foster inclusivity.

- 3. Please describe the unique perspective or skills you would bring to the AONL Board.**

My journey as a nurse executive, COO, and CEO spans over 35 years and has been marked by my dedication to nursing advocacy. I've served on community boards, local nurse leader organizations, and the AONL publications committee, always striving to amplify the voice of nursing. Advocacy for nursing has been a cornerstone of my career, engaging in legislative efforts and professional organizations. Transitioning to academia four years ago, I now teach nursing leadership while maintaining a commitment to patient safety, nursing care, and leadership through research, board positions, and community engagement. I am the undergraduate program coordinator responsible for overseeing the curriculum.

**4. Please describe your actions to improve health outcomes through advocacy.**

My tenure with United Way ignited a passion for community impact. As Board Chair, we established the first community center facilitating connections through English and reading classes, music, dance, and cultural activities, with 38 programs in total. The center reduced 911 calls, enhanced reading literacy, and fostered neighbor connections. Additionally, a mental health initiative promoted understanding and compassion. We partnered with mental health providers to increase awareness and care in the community. As a Revere Health Foundation Board member, we're collaborating with United Way to launch another transformative community center this summer.