

Nicolette Fiore-Lopez, PhD, RN, CENP, FAAN

BIOGRAPHY

Nicolette Fiore-Lopez is the Chief Nursing Officer for St. Charles Hospital, member of Catholic Health, Port Jefferson, NY, a position she has held for over 20 years. She also serves as adjunct faculty, at Stony Brook University, School of Nursing and adjunct faculty at the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve. She is Immediate Past President of the New York Organization of Nurse Executives and Nurse Leaders, Co-Lead of the Strategic Board Placement Workgroup of the Nurses on Boards Coalition, member of the AONL Nurse Leaders in Advocacy, member of the task force to revise the CENP exam. She is a Board Member of Molloy University and a member of the College Council of SUNY Old Westbury. Dr. Fiore-Lopez has recently accepted an appointment to the Communications Committee for the Eastern Nurses Research Society. She previously held various leadership roles at Good Samaritan Hospital and NYU Langone Health.

An inaugural graduate of the Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellowship Program at Case Western Reserve, Dr. Fiore-Lopez holds a PhD from Molloy College as a member of the inaugural cohort, a MA from New York University, and a BSN from Hunter College.

Dr. Fiore-Lopez is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and recent inductee as a Fellow of AONL. In 2018, she was a member of the committee that established the inaugural FAONL. Dr. Fiore-Lopez has also been the recipient of several awards including the Advocacy Award (Molloy University), Veritas Award (Molloy University), and the Spirit of St. Charles Award (St. Charles Hospital).

STATEMENTS

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

AONL convened numerous task forces and think tanks to create a compendium of possible solutions addressing workforce shortages, yet funding remains a major hurdle to their implementation. I propose a strategic, national approach, led by AONL, to secure federal and state funding and philanthropy for demonstration projects. They would cultivate best practices and feed the workforce pipeline. AONL has a well established relationship with AACN and members engaged in advocacy. Combining these forces would create a highly successful program.

AONL is well positioned to gather information about current successful strategies that would then be then collated and distributed to members.

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

I was able to secure a two hundred and fifty thousand dollar grant to provide nursing scholarship monies. The aim is to increase diversity of the nursing pipeline by providing opportunity to those whose socioeconomic status would otherwise be an obstacle to furthering their education.

For the past twenty years, I have led my hospital group of nursing volunteers in providing health screenings and referrals to the underserved and underinsured in Long Island parishes. This was the model that was used as it expanded to all System hospitals, serving tens of thousands in our community.

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

Throughout my career, I participated in professional, practice, and academic organizations at various levels, including NYONL Presidency and the FAONL Design Task Force. This gives me a perspective about what is effective at the local and national levels.

I am as comfortable being a group leader as a group member. I readily engage in and fulfill organizational commitments. Viewing issues through multiple lenses, I am always respectful when voicing my opinion, whether majority or minority. I am a convener and communicator ensuring that information and decision making are well grounded.

I am a 2024 FAONL designee.

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

I have been actively engaged with the AONL Advocacy Committee and subsequently Nurse Leaders in Advocacy (NLIA), including educating AONL members about advocacy strategies.

My advocacy leadership led to the passage of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act which became New York law in 2022. This Act established grants and requires specific activities to improve the mental and behavioral health among health care providers.

I successfully lobbied for, among other legislative actions, the BSN in 10 and the Clinical Staffing laws.

I have co-presented on advocacy at the AONL National Conference, AONL Advocacy Academy and NYONL.