

## Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN

### NIDCAP Federation International Board of Directors Statement for Re-Election Consideration

I have worked the majority of my professional career as a Developmental Nurse Educator, Developmental Specialist, Associate Professor, and Senior NIDCAP Trainer supporting developing relationships for infants and families along with the health care professionals who provide care during this critical period of development.

My longstanding commitment to the NIDCAP process and NFI has been integrated into my personal and professional experiences. I am a process-oriented thinker, who is dedicated to innovative solutions to enhance learning and growth that upholds the personhood of the individual. My background of over 35 years in Neonatal/Perinatal nursing has focused on the care of high-risk infants and families. My professional responsibilities have focused on infant neurobehavioral assessments and functioning, as well as mentoring multidisciplinary health care professionals on infant behavior and development to improve outcomes for infants in hospital settings. I have a longstanding interest in reflective process implementation to support health care professionals' emotional well-being and functioning with repeated and prolonged stress exposures. My research focused on understanding how stress and burnout influence health care professional's decision making to implement family-centered care practices. I currently work in a faculty position at Fairfield University and at Connecticut Children's, Newborn Intensive Care.

I believe in life-long learning and completed a Masters Degree in Nursing Education. I also received a PhD from the University of Connecticut. My research also focuses on examining bio-behavioral mechanisms, specifically the role oxytocin and cortisol in modulating premature infants' behavioral, autonomic and stress responses utilizing individualized developmental care strategies to enhance parent engagement. I believe in lifelong learning and completed an interdisciplinary fellowship with the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND Program) after completing my doctoral studies. I worked for more than 20 years for the Connecticut Department of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Quality Management. In this role I provided consultation and regulatory oversight to public and private organizations to identify gaps within systems of care for individuals with developmental disabilities across the lifespan that influenced health outcomes.

It has been a pleasure serving on the NFI, Board of Directors in which years I served as Secretary for a year, and 7 years as the Vice-President. I currently as the Program Committee, Chair. Also, I continued to actively participate on various sub-committees specifically, the NIDCAP Nursery Program Steering Committee, the NFI Learning Center, NIDCAP & Science, NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Planning and QAAC. I have learned a tremendous amount regarding the functioning of the organization and am looking forward to continuing to serve the NFI membership.

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy to continue to serve on the NFI, Board of Directors