

**C**LINICAL EXPERTISE  
**N**URSING PRACTICE  
**S**YSTEMS INNOVATION

# NACNS

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists

# Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute

## Fellows Program



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FCNS



# CNSI Mission

- ▶ **The CNSI serves to develop and promote the charitable, educational, innovative clinical practice, and scientific purposes of NACNS**

# CNSI Fellows Program

- Created in 2019, the CNSI Fellows Program recognizes clinical nurse specialists whose achievements and contributions **advance the unique expertise and value the clinical nurse specialist contributes to** healthcare as evidenced by the following:
  - Demonstrate leadership in the CNS role;
  - Provide impactful CNS work;
  - Increase the visibility of the CNS role;
  - Promote the full scope of CNS practice;
  - Conduct and disseminate data-driven or evidence-based projects to advance nursing science and improve outcomes;
  - Disseminate knowledge about the CNS role and activities.



# Value of Fellow Recognition

- ▶ An earned honor based on leadership, clinical expertise, scholarly activity, and/or advocacy
- ▶ An earned credential, FCNS, that benefits one in terms of promotion, tenure, or other advancement opportunities
- ▶ Opportunities to contribute time and energy to CNSI to shape the organization and its programs including service as a peer reviewer for research or EBP/QI grants and Fellow selection process
- ▶ Be part of an elite and prestigious group of CNS's



# Eligibility Requirements

- ▶ Must be a current member of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) for at least 2 years prior to applying;
- ▶ Must have 5 or more years of experience working in a CNS role after completing graduate education;



# Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be credentialed by their state as a CNS

➤ **OR**

- Educated as a CNS

➤ **PLUS**

- Have significant past or current contributions as a CNS





# Criteria

1. Demonstrates impact of CNS work *beyond employer organization*;
2. Evidence of leadership with *national impact* that supports CNS activities or role;
3. Evidence of CNS activities that support visibility of CNS role;
4. Conducts data-driven &/or evidence-driven projects to improve patient care, safety, health outcomes, health system processes or educational processes (e.g., QI, EPB, Research, other).



# Criteria, Con't.

5. Engages in activities to promote the full scope of CNS practice and role at the local, state, and/or national level;
6. Disseminates knowledge that demonstrates the value of the CNS role and CNS-related activities (e.g., practice, outcomes, research, legislation/regulatory, education, etc.).



# Criteria Assessment

- ▶ CNSI Fellows demonstrate outstanding achievements on the criteria previously described
  - ▶ Individual applicants do not have to be outstanding in all criteria, but they do go beyond the “ordinary” CNS work role in most of the criteria.
- ▶ Fellows have made significant and impactful contributions to *advance* the CNS role.



# Application Process

- Submit 2 letters of endorsement from professional colleagues.
- Provide a 750-word statement, addressing the criteria (use brief headings) with evidence of outstanding contributions as a CNS.
- Write a 180-word professional biography.
- Provide a Curriculum Vitae (10 pg limit).
- Submit a color headshot photo (high resolution, jpg file).
- Complete the application form (last page in application instruction document – available on line)
- Submit an application fee of \$250.



# Endorsement Letters

- ▶ Two Letters – that address the 6 criteria;
  - ▶ 2-page maximum
  - ▶ Typed on organizational letterhead & Signed.
- ▶ Preferably one letter from a supervisor or other person in a position to supervise or oversee your work; &
- ▶ Second letter from another peer/ colleague who is knowledgeable about the applicant's work as a CNS.



# Statement

- 750-word limit (including headings)
- Use brief headings for each of 6 criteria to organize the statement:
  - (1) Leadership; (2) Visibility; (3) Impact;
  - (4) Improvement Projects; (5) Full Scope of Practice; (6) Dissemination
- Describe your outstanding contributions and provide evidence of these activities
- Provide clear exemplars to support your statement



# Professional Biography

- ▶ 180 words (Think “high points”)
- ▶ The biography will be used in the program materials;
- ▶ The biography should start with the applicant's name; followed by CNS role or title; and employer (the easy part) .
- ▶ Then write the hard part: Summarize your most outstanding contributions to the CNS role/ practice/ education, etc. List major honors & awards.

# Curriculum Vitae

- ▶ Typed, single-spaced, 12-point font, 10 page maximum
  - ▶ *May need to limit exemplars to recent years in some sections*
- ▶ Follow directions of what requirements to include and how to format:
- ▶ Name (as you want it to appear)
- ▶ Credentials (highest degree, licensure, certifications, designation), e.g.
  - ▶ **Name, PhD, RN, CCRP, FCCM**
  - ▶ **Name, MSN, ACNS-BC, CCNS, CCRN, FCCM**
- ▶ Education – list most recent degree, followed by earlier degrees earned:
  - ▶ University, degree earned, year awarded





# CV, Con't.

- ▶ Employment History
  - ▶ Employer, role, dates of employment
  - ▶ Do not list work activities here
- ▶ Honors and Awards
  - ▶ Name/title of award, organization, year
- ▶ Research/EBP/QI projects
  - ▶ Title of project, applicant's role on project, if funded – list the \$ amount, & years project was active.



# CV, Con't.

- ▶ Dissemination
  - ▶ Use full reference citation for articles, book chapters
  - ▶ Selected presentations (authors, presentation title, organization, date)
- ▶ Service Activities
  - ▶ Sort by local, state, national and /or international
  - ▶ Include committees, professional activities, leadership activities & roles/positions.
- ▶ Legislative/Regulatory Activities –
  - ▶ Sort by local, state, national
  - ▶ List those that promote the CNS role



# \$250 Application Fee

(US Currency)

- ▶ Pay by check, made out to: Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute
- ▶ & Mail to:
  - ▶ Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute
  - ▶ Attn: CNSI Fellows Program
  - ▶ 401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600
  - ▶ Wakefield, MA 01880
  
- ▶ OR – Pay by credit card on CNSI Fellowship webpage:  
<https://nacns.org/cns-institute/>
- ▶ Look Under the “donate” tab – fee payments are on that webpage.
  
- ▶ **Fee must be received with completed application.**



# Projected Timeline

- ▶ Applications are due by: **September 30**
- ▶ Applications assigned to reviewers who do not have conflicts of interest (good or bad) with the applicant
- ▶ Reviews completed by mid-October;
- ▶ Scores collated;
- ▶ Review panel meets in Oct/Nov;
- ▶ Letters to applicants by mid-November.



# If Selected

- You must be able to participate in the induction ceremony held during the annual NACNS Conference (e.g., March 2022).
- You may defer induction for one year (e.g., attend 2023); but
- If you do not participate in the induction ceremony in this year or next year, then you must re-apply to be considered for fellow status.



# If Selected

- ▶ Pay Fellows fees:
- ▶ Induction fee that
  - ▶ Covers the cost of formal dinner;
  - ▶ Certificates,
  - ▶ FCNS pin
- ▶ First year's fellowship fee of \$100 – due in March
- ▶ Fellow's fees are paid by check or via the CNSI Fellowship webpage (look at 'Donation page')
- ▶ You must maintain your membership in NACNS and pay an annual fellowship fee to retain your Fellow status.



# Other Details

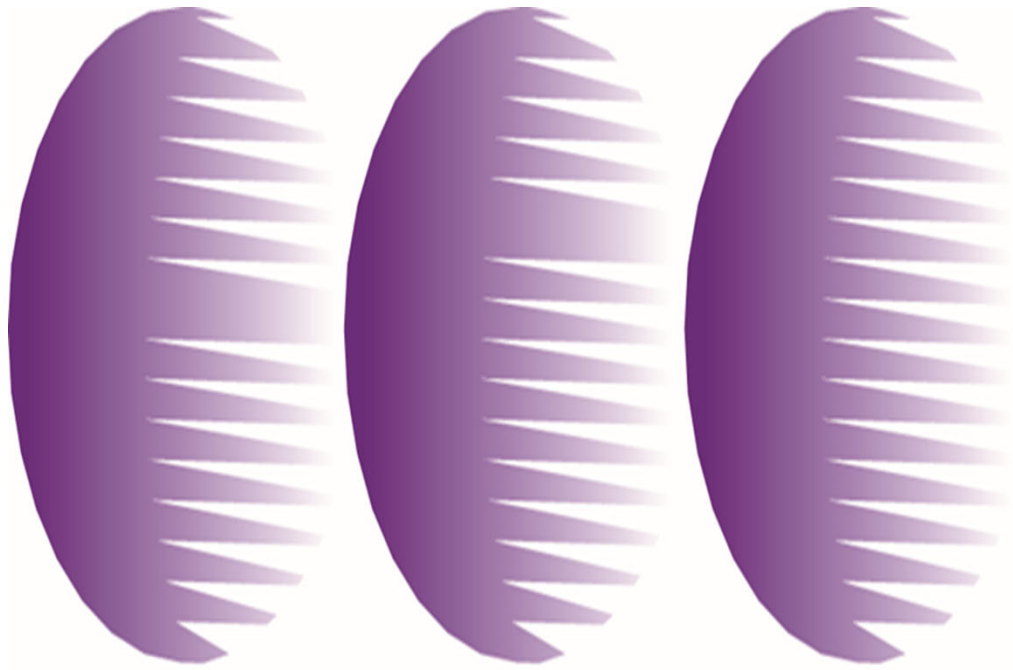
- ▶ Guests are welcome to attend the Induction Ceremony which includes dinner
- ▶ Guest tickets for the event cover the cost of dinner/service
- ▶ See NACNS conference registration brochure for details



# Questions?

- For additional clarifications:
- **Contact us at [cnsi@nacns.org](mailto:cnsi@nacns.org)**





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