Association of Black Nursing Faculty
EST. 1987

2027 COHORT · APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 4, 2026

Gloria J. McNeal Leadership and Public Policy Mentoring Fellowship

A year-long virtual mentoring fellowship for members of the Association of Black Nursing Faculty (ABNF) who are ready to lead in academia and advance health policy.



COHORT
Up to 15 fellows

FORMAT
Four virtual quarterly sessions

APPLY BY
December 4, 2026

Why this fellowship matters

Nurses are essential leaders in shaping the future of health care and improving population health. Their frontline experience, clinical expertise and trusted relationships with communities position them to lead transformative change.

By engaging in professional organizations and leading within academic institutions, nurses shape the profession through education, research, mentorship and policy influence. Strengthening this leadership pipeline keeps nursing a driving force in health system transformation and health equity.

Greater nurse representation in health policy and advocacy is urgently needed.

As health care systems face complex challenges, nurses must be empowered to influence policy decisions, advocate for equitable care and drive reforms that reflect the needs of diverse populations.

Nurses bring distinctive value to health policy. Their ability to navigate the political landscape, communicate effectively and lead with conviction makes them strong candidates for policy-making and advocacy roles.

IMPACT

Skills and strategic insight for your next step

Participation in ABNF's leadership development, health policy education and mentoring programs gives members the skills and strategic insight to advance their career goals. Fellows from previous cohorts have used the experience to expand their influence across academic institutions, health systems and professional organizations.



PURPOSE

Mission and vision

MISSION

The mission of the Gloria J. McNeal Leadership and Public Policy Mentoring Fellowship is to promote the acquisition of leadership positions within the nursing workforce, academia and professional organizations while also elevating the number of nurses involved in public policy and advocacy.

VISION

The fellowship envisions a nurturing and supportive environment that recognizes the capacity of ABNF members to serve as influential leaders and to use their expertise in public policy and advocacy arenas.

Objectives

- Host quarterly career development seminars led by prominent nurse leaders.
- Hold quarterly virtual mentor-mentee meetings, with an optional networking session at the ABNF Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference.
- Build professional socialization and peer networks that strengthen leadership identity.
- Provide targeted guidance for nurses pursuing appointment, promotion or tenure, aligned with teaching, research and service.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

- ABNF members with academic appointments in schools of nursing
- Nurse educators in medical centers and healthcare organizations nationwide
- Faculty building leadership capacity and bringing health policy and advocacy into their careers

THE YEAR AHEAD

Program and how to apply

Quarterly fellowship sessions

Fellows attend four virtual sessions of three hours each, on the third Saturday of the month. State and national leaders present key topics, then mentor-led breakouts support in-depth discussion.

Session	Date	Time
Session 1	January 16, 2027	1:00–4:00 p.m. ET
Session 2	April 17, 2027	1:00–4:00 p.m. ET
Session 3	July 17, 2027	1:00–4:00 p.m. ET
Session 4	October 16, 2027	1:00–4:00 p.m. ET

Mentee-mentor sessions

Four one-hour virtual sessions to design and carry out an individual professional development strategy.

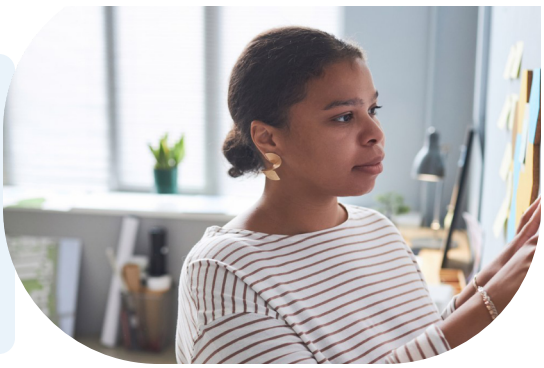
Optional networking

Mentors and mentees may also meet at the ABNF Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference, June 9–12, 2027, Hilton Atlanta.

VIRTUAL Q&A · NOT REQUIRED TO APPLY

Thursday, November 19, 2026, 7:30–8:30 p.m. ET

A one-hour fellowship overview and application review, followed by questions.



APPLY

Applications are due December 4, 2026

Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET. Complete the separate application document, **click here**. Questions: sjcrowde@iu.edu

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Dr. Sharron Crowder, Chair
Dr. Maxine Adegbola
Dr. JoAnn Oliver
Dr. Karen Reifenstein
Dr. Charlene Whitaker-Brown