

Stephane VanderMeulen, Director at Large

I respectfully declare my candidacy for a second term as Director at Large on the PAEA Board of Directors. I have been honored to serve on the Board for the past two years and have been fortunate to have worked with an exceptional group of PA educators who have incredible vision and foresight. Since becoming a member of PAEA in 2005, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Nominations and Awards, Government Relations, Governance, and Finance committees, as well as serving as Chair of the Awards committee. My committee and board experiences have given me a broad perspective of the organization and the needs of its member programs.

I believe that the role of the Board of Directors is two-fold. First, to meet the immediate needs of our organization and member programs and second, to create a strategic plan which positions the profession for future growth and success. We must continue to build upon the progress that has been made in several important areas. Over the past year, the board has undertaken an initiative to promote diversity and inclusivity in our profession. It is imperative that these efforts continue until diversity is no longer a token effort, but is inextricably woven into the fabric of our culture. Diversity should be who we are, not what we do. Additionally, the board has placed a high priority on meeting the varied needs of our member programs, such as faculty development, assistance with grants and local advocacy efforts and admissions support. It is important that we continue to expand existing services and develop new ones in order to meet the changing needs of a rapidly expanding profession.

Great strides have also been made in a number of strategic areas which will provide avenues for our profession to grow and thrive. Important issues include the support and further development of a research agenda, expanded advocacy efforts in collaboration with our partner organizations, strengthened external relations with physician groups and other professional organizations, expansion of the clinical preceptor network, and developing innovative ways to address the anticipated workforce needs of our nation. We must build upon this momentum and look to the future with optimism.

I have been fortunate to have been a part of the leadership of this organization during this exciting time of growth. I would appreciate your support so I can continue my service to the Association and its membership for another term.