National Certification Corporation
676 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3600 | Chicago, IL 60611 | P 312-951-0207 | NCCwebsite.org

2027 Board Nominations Slate
Board of Directors

Nathan M. Zitko, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC, RNC-NIC, C-ELBW
Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship, Neonatal Intensive Care,
OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois, Peoria, IL
MSN, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
BSN, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Current Position
Instructor and Clinical Preceptor
Rush University College of Nursing
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Level III NICU
Rush University Children's Hospital
Locum Tenens Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
Weatherby Healthcare & Metropedix, Chicagoland Level II Nurseries
Chicago, IL

NCC Involvement
Care of the Very Low Birth Weight Neonate Content Team (2026-present)
Care of the Very Low Birth Weight Neonate Standard Setting Team (2024)
Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing Standard Setting Team (2025)
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Standard Setting Team (2024)
Item Writer (2025-present)

Certification
Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing (RNC-NIC), 2021 – Present
Care of the Extremely Low Birth Weight Neonate (C-ELBW), 2021 – Present
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP-BC), 2023 – Present

Candidate Statement
I would be honored to serve on the National Certification Corporation Board of Directors. Certification has been central to my professional development as a neonatal nurse practitioner, and as an NNP-BC, RNC-NIC, and C-ELBW certificant, I see certification as more than a credential. It is an important means of validating specialty knowledge, supporting professional accountability, and promoting safe, evidence-based care. My involvement with NCC has given me an even greater appreciation for the rigor, collaboration, and thoughtful oversight required to maintain that trust.

My volunteer involvement with NCC began in 2024 when I was selected to participate on the NNP Standard Setting Team. Later that year, I also participated in ELBW standard setting, followed by RNC-NIC standard setting

in 2025. In 2025, my involvement expanded to item writing for the NNP-BC, C-ELBW, and RNC-NIC certification programs. Most recently, I joined the C-ELBW Content Team, where I participated in examination content and form review and worked with colleagues to evaluate the relevance, clarity, and quality of certification content. Together, these experiences have strengthened my understanding of the responsibility involved in maintaining credible, psychometrically sound certification programs that continue to reflect current clinical practice.

I would bring to the Board the perspective of a practicing neonatal nurse practitioner whose work also spans education, professional leadership, scholarship, and quality improvement. I serve as an Instructor at Rush University College of Nursing, an NRP Instructor Mentor, and Chair of Communications and Social Media on the Board of Directors of the Greater Chicago Association of Neonatal Nurses. I am also involved in national neonatal professional service, peer review, and doctoral quality improvement work. These experiences have strengthened my interest in professional competency, neonatal workforce development, lifelong learning, and creating meaningful pathways for clinicians to remain engaged in their specialty.

Serving on the NCC Board would allow me to contribute to the organization more broadly while continuing to learn from leaders across women's health, obstetric, and neonatal specialties. I would bring thoughtful preparation, a collaborative approach, and a strong connection to frontline neonatal practice. I would be very grateful for the opportunity to help NCC preserve the integrity and value of certification while continuing to innovate, engage certificants, and support high-quality care.

Certified Nurse Representative to the Nominating Committee

Carrissa Moody, BSN, RNC-LRN, C-ONQS
BSN, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT
ADN, Brookhaven College, Farmers Branch, TX

Current Position
Charge Nurse/Staff Nurse of 7 Bed Level II NICU
Coordinator for Level II NICU Community Outreach Program
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Flower Mound

NCC Certification
Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse (RNC-LRN), 2007 – Present
Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety (C-ONQS), 2021 – Present

NCC Involvement
Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing Content Team
NCC Board of Directors (2019–2024)
Nominations Committee (2025-present)

Candidate Statement
I would like to express my interest in joining the nomination committee as a nurse representative. Since 2019 I have enjoyed my time serving the NCC Board of Directors. I would be honored to continue to serve NCC on the nominations committee.

I have 24 years of experience in the field of neonatal nursing. I have participated on the Low Risk Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing Content Team since 2017. I also acquired my Obstetric and Neonatal Quality and Safety Certification in January 2021. I am a passionate advocate for certification in the neonatal field and I have great respect for NCC as a company.

Among other activities, I have been the lead NRP Instructor Mentor and Trainer since 2012. I co-lead the hospital Clinical Informatics meetings and disperse information from the hospital system wide clinical informatics team. As the secretary of our Level 2 NICU Unit Based Council I assist in facilitating discussion while coordinating solutions for the workplace and keeping accurate meeting minutes.

I have six years of volunteer experience with the NCC Board, and I am currently an active participant of the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Denton Board where I have experience reviewing applications and resumes along with voting to approve new Board members.

Again, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the NCC Board. It would be an honor and privilege to continue serving on the nominations committee and to represent certified nurses and NCC as a whole.