

# WOMEN'S *HERSTORY* MONTH 2022



MARCH 24, 2022



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) at the American Nurses Association (ANA) is proud to highlight twenty MFP/ANA women alumna trailblazers during Women's Herstory Month 2022. This week we recognize MFP/ANA alumnae Bridgette Brawner, PhD, MDiv, APRN, Donna Grandbois, PhD, RN, MS, Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, RN, MPH, CPH, FAAN, Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, Eugenia Isabel Flores Millender, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, CDE, FAAN, Marife Aczon-Armstrong, PhD, RN-BC, MSN, MSCP, BSN, and Lakeetra M. Josey, PhD, RN, CRNP, PMHNP-BC.

**Bridgette Brawner**  
**PhD, MDiv, APRN**



Dr. Brawner is the Richard and Marianne Kreider Endowed Professor in Nursing for Vulnerable Populations, Villanova University College of Nursing, Villanova, PA. She is the Immediate Past Chair (2018-2021) of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association National Advisory Committee. She currently serves as a member of the ANA National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing. She is also the Founder and Director, Research for Equity and Justice Collective (REJC).

Dr. Brawner began her clinical practice in the hospital setting and has since expanded her work to community-based practice. A recognized behavioral science and intervention development expert, she has worked on a myriad of HIV/sexually transmitted infection (STI) risk reduction programs both locally and internationally. Dr. Brawner is a dedicated community-based researcher who believes “the populations we serve must be an integral component of our work, before our grants are even written.” She conceptualizes that communities are not static entities defined by boundaries in the built environment; but rather communities represent groups of individuals who have shared experiences, interests or concerns. Thus, her clinical practice ranges from working with youth who are infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, to partnering with behavioral health providers to develop standardized methods of sexual health assessment and intervention for adolescents with mental illnesses. Dr. Brawner is a staunch social justice advocate who believes that research can be leveraged as an advocacy tool to ensure all individuals have an opportunity to achieve their full health potential. She graduated Cum Laude from Villanova University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and both a Master of Science

in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing in 2005 specializing in children and families and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing in 2009 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Dr. Brawner is also an alumna of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association, 'c09. She was selected as the University's inaugural Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow immediately upon completion of the PhD degree. In 2011, Dr. Brawner was selected as one of four scholars from across the nation to serve as a two-year Visiting Research Fellow at the Yale University Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) through the Research Education Institute for Diverse Scholars (REIDS). In this role, she gained advanced methodological skills to explore multi-level factors that shape health inequities. Most recently, she completed a Master of Divinity in 2017 at the Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University.

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**Donna Grandbois**  
**PhD, RN, MS**



Dr. Grandbois is currently an Associate Professor with a dual appointment in the School of Nursing and the Department of Public Health at North Dakota State University (UND). She is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt, ND. Dr. Grandbois areas of expertise includes resilience and empowerment at the individual and community level Gerontology

and Native American/elders, Vulnerable populations, Health disparities related to trauma, Aging and mental health issues, Equitable distribution of comprehensive healthcare, educational, and economic resources. She has taught both mental health theory and served as a psychiatric clinical instructor at UND since 2001. Dr. Grandbois has been an outspoken advocate for underserved people who must not only confront mental illness, but the stigma that is so prevalent in these close, usually rural communities. She served as one of three American Indian Alaska Native presenters for a free teleconference training sponsored by the

ADS Center at the SAMHSA Resource Center to Address Discrimination and Stigma Associated with Mental Illness. Her presentation was titled: “Overcoming Barriers and the Stigma Associated with Mental Illness in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities”. She is the author of two papers published in 2005, both discussing stigma and mental illness. They are Stigma of Mental Illness among American Indian and Alaska Native Nations: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (2005) and Perspectives on Suicide Prevention among American Indians and Alaska Native Children and Adolescents: A Call for Help. Dr. Grandbois was a panelist at the National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association (NANAINA) Conference in Washington, DC and was a presenter at the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Brownbag Lecture on The Concept of Mental Illness and Stigma among American Indian Communities.

Dr. Grandbois was the co-investigator and tribal liaison on a three phase, four-reservation research project that sought to define health and illness among American Indians experiencing severe and persistent mental illness. It was in this capacity that Dr. Grandbois became acutely aware of the often insurmountable barrier that stigma can present for the American Indian client. She has also published about indigenous culturally appropriate healthcare, the importance of history and culture of nursing of Native Americans, and resilience and storytelling experiences of Native American elders.

Dr. Grandbois earned her PhD in gerontology and counseling from North Dakota State University in 2008 and a master's degree in psychiatric mental health nursing from North Dakota State University. Her dissertation was entitled “An Exploratory Study of Resilience in the Lived Experience of Native American Elders.” She also has a master’s degree in psychiatric mental health nursing. Dr. Grandbois is an alumna of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association 'c 08.

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**Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda**  
**PhD, RN, MPH, CPH, FAAN**



Dr. Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda is an Associate Professor at Duke University School of Nursing and faculty lead for the Population Health Research Area of Expertise for the School's Center for Nursing Research. She also serves as the Co-Director of the Pilots Core for Duke's Clinical Translational Science Institute and serves as the Co-Director of the Community Engagement Core for Duke's Clinical Translational Science Institute. Her research focuses on the intersection of intimate partner violence,

substance abuse, HIV and mental health among Latinos in the U.S. and the development of culturally tailored interventions to address these issues. She is the principal investigator of a longitudinal study funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health (1 R01 MD012249-01) that will identify the impact that acculturation stress and resilience have on biobehavioral and mental health outcomes among young adult Latino immigrants over time. She is also the principal investigator of a Hillman Foundation Emergent Innovation Award that will develop a smartphone application to prevent intimate partner violence among young adult Latino immigrants.

She was one of five nurses who served on the Institute of Medicine Committee that produced the landmark Future of Nursing Report (2010), was appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to serve on the National Advisory Council on Nursing Education and Practice (NACNEP, 2012-2016), and has been the principal investigator of various programs that promote health disparities research careers for underrepresented minority nurses and students from various health professions. Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda has worked on various community

health nursing projects, public health programs and research focusing on African Americans, Hispanic Americans and other vulnerable populations in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda's publications and manuscripts have been featured in journals including, but not limited to, Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Issues in Mental Health Nursing, and Hispanic Health Care International.

Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor's of Nursing, a Master's in Nursing and Public Health (MSN, MPH) from Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Miami and with an Interdepartmental Doctorate that drew from the disciplines of Nursing, Epidemiology and Psychology (PhD). Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda is a scholar of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars Program, a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and an alumna of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association 'c 08.

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**Beverly Malone**  
**PhD, RN, FAAN**



Dr. Malone's distinguished career has mixed policy, education, administration, and clinical practice, including as federal deputy assistant secretary for health under President Bill Clinton. In 1996, Dr. Malone was elected for two terms as President of the American Nurses Association, the second African American to hold the position. She contributed to the groundbreaking IOM report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," and served on the Minority Health Federal Advisory Committee, a

federal panel established to advise the US Secretary of Health and Human Services. She is on the Kaiser Family Foundation Board of Directors and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Board of

Directors. In 2021, Modern Healthcare honored her with a Top 25 Women Leaders' Luminary Award. Last year, Modern Healthcare ranked her as No. 5 in their Top 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare and named her to the inaugural list of five Minority Healthcare Luminaries.

Dr. Malone was honored by the University of Cincinnati with the Linda Bates Parker Legend Award, which recognizes alumni for their professional accomplishments and active development of those around them. The NLN Board of Governors presented her with an Award of Distinction. Dr. Malone was named an Honorary Member of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, bestowed the Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award by The National Center for Healthcare Leadership, and was recognized by the American Academy of Nursing with their highest Nursing Honor, "Living Legend." Dr. Malone has received more than 20 honorary doctorates, including from Georgetown University.

Dr. Malone has worked as a surgical staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist, director of nursing, assistant administrator of nursing and was dean of the School of Nursing at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She was elected to two terms as president of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and has been a global leader, serving as general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), the United Kingdom's largest professional union of nurses.

Dr. Malone received her Bachelor's in Nursing from the University of Cincinnati, her Master's degree in Psychiatric Nursing from Rutgers University and her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Cincinnati. She is also a graduate fellow of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association 'c 81.

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**Eugenia Isabel Flores Millender  
PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, CDE, FAAN**



As an indigenous Afro-Latina nurse scientist, Dr. Eugenia Millender has dedicated her career to increasing access to mental health equity and providing culturally appropriate care. Dr. Eugenia Millender is currently the Co-Founder and Co-Director for the Center for Population Sciences for Health Equity and an Associate Professor at Florida State University College of Nursing. Dr. Millender's program of research is focused on

on investigating ways to reduce mental health disparities by exploring how socio-cultural stressors and trauma influence transgenerational psychological and co-occurring physical illness through gene-environment interaction among vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations. She works with community-based organizations to co-create community-academic partnerships, meaningful investigations, and interventions for diverse communities. Previously, Dr. Millender was a Research Associate at the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity (INRHE) at Florida State University. In 2014, she founded the Florida Atlantic University Christine E. College of Nursing Nurse-led community health center in West Palm Beach, Florida. This center is grounded on caring philosophy and dedicated to increasing access to quality and culturally sensitive integrated care for underserved populations while serving as a vibrant laboratory for current and future practitioners and scientists. Her publications are focused on cultural safety and community based program for urban Native American youth, COVID-19 and indigenous peoples and cumulative trauma among Mayas living in southeast Florida, to list a selected few.

Dr. Millender is currently the Chair of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association National Advisory

Committee and serves on several national boards including the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) board as Member-At-Large. She is also a Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice Global Mental Health Task Force member whose goal is to promote social justice and human rights and reduce behavioral health disparities. She is a Florida State University Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Steering Committee member. In addition, Dr. Millender serves on several community boards, including the Center for Child Counseling (Vice-chair; 2013–present), EmpowHER of the Palm Beaches (advisory board; 2017–present), and the Mental Health Council of Leon County (advisory board; 2018–present).

She received her PhD, MS and BSN from Florida Atlantic University, and an AA degree from the College of Lake County University and in 2011, she received a Post-Graduate Certificate as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner from Rush University. She is a graduate fellow of the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association 'c 13.

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**Marife Aczon-Armstrong**  
**PhD, RN-BC, MSN, MSCP, BSN**



Dr. Marife C. Aczon-Armstrong is an expert in case management and international mission service learning. As a nationally board-certified nurse case manager, Aczon-Armstrong has successful efforts in optimizing the health and well-being of the ethnic minority population specifically the Asian/Pacific Islander population she served in Hawaii. She is also a strong advocate of the holistic view: mind, body, and spirit in nursing patient care. Dr. Aczon-Armstrong is the Founder

Immediate Past-President of the Asian American Pacific Islander Nurses Association of Nevada (AAPINA of NV) and current Chair of the Board of Directors at AAPINA of NV. She is the Founder and past President of

AAPINA Hawaii Chapter. She hosts a radio program, “Healthy Mondays with AAPINA of NV” airing every Monday at 7 pm on PHLV Radio in Las Vegas, NV and beyond. Appointed by the F. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State as a Fulbright Senior Specialist for five years, Dr. Aczon-Armstrong completed the program in 2014 and 2016. She has been a visiting Professor every summer at Uganda Christian University’s Master of Nursing Science Program teaching in the Nurse Education track since 2014 to present. Dr. Aczon-Armstrong has been reappointed by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education & Cultural Affairs to the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a four-year tenure (2021-2025). This appointment makes her eligible to be matched with projects designed by host institutions in over 150 countries globally.

As an Alumna Nurse Scholar for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration Minority Fellowship Program at American Nurses Association (SAMHSA MFP at ANA) 'c 10, she has extensive background and training in Mental Health focusing on depression, substance use, chronic illnesses among Asian/Pacific Islander population. She served as a National Advisory Committee member for SAMHSA MFP at ANA in 2016 to 2018. Dr. Aczon-Armstrong is currently a mentor for SAMHSA MFP Nurse Scholarship Program. She was recently elected as District 3 Vice-President (2020-2022) for the Nevada Nurses Association (NNA). She was invited to the White House to celebrate the 2021 4th of July celebration as a super COVID-19 volunteer with 1,500 healthcare front liners and military families. She serves as an inaugural member of Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Council (DIAC) at Roseman University of Health Sciences.

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**Lakeetra M. Josey**  
**PhD, RN, CRNP, PMHNP-BC**



Dr. Josey is the Co-Founder of YOUr Center, LLC. She is certified as a Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and works with patients across the lifespan. She is also Co-Founder and Medical Director of Phoenix Center for Health and Wellness, LLC, a substance use disorder treatment program. Her area of interest is in improving the physical health outcomes for people, particularly of racial and ethnic minorities, with serious mental illnesses. This

interest was sparked by the 2006 report that people with mental illnesses die, on average, 25 years younger than those without mental illnesses. Her work focuses on exploring and understanding this phenomenon, conducting research, and developing interventions to address this health disparity.

Dr. Josey is also a practicing Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She is certified as a Master Psychopharmacologist from the Neuroscience Education Institute and believes her primary objective in working with clients with mental health issues is to assist them to live their fullest and healthiest lives possible. She has co-authored manuscripts that have been published in mental health journals and most recently was the lead author of a chapter on prescribing for Depressive Disorders in the newly released Manual of Clinical Psychopharmacology for Nurses published by the American Medical Association.

She has worked in clinical practice in a variety of settings including inpatient, outpatient, partial hospitals, and psychiatric consults. She also assisted in developing a behavioral health program in a Federally Qualified Health Center to help bring specialized mental health care into

primary care setting. She attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Her first undergraduate degree was in Psychology. After working in an inpatient psychiatric setting, she began the Accelerated BSN/MSN program at the University of Pennsylvania where she also earned her PhD in Nursing. She is a SAMHSA MFP/ANA graduate fellow 'c 16. She has served as president of the MFP/ANA Alumni Group, now the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Minority Fellowship Graduate Association (MFGA), a 501c3, since 2019.



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