



March 13, 2019

Presidents' Corner

An Invitation to Commit to Justice with NACPM Leaders

"Don't go backwards--you've already been there." - Ray Charles

In a newsletter sent out a month after the 2018 CPM Symposium, we described the convening as "a beautiful wildfire." Now almost a year later, the metaphor still applies.

In the wake of this event, we're witnessing new growth pushing up where the landscape was scorched, possibilities--like tender shoots--needing to be nurtured.



Tanya Khemet Taiwo, CPM, MPH, PHD Audrey Levine, LM, CPM-Ret

If there was one resounding lesson for us that came out of the Symposium, it was that improving birthing options for childbearing individuals and families in the U.S. will require nothing less than an "all-hands-on-deck" approach that unwaveringly and unapologetically centers the needs of those who have been the most adversely impacted by our broken healthcare system. We have reaffirmed that one of NACPM's key responsibilities is to grow a more vibrant and representative CPM workforce by removing barriers--both externally and within the midwifery community--that have perpetuated the inequities of white-dominated, heteronormative culture for far too long.

Fewer than 10% of CPMs are people of color, and we know that providing culturally relevant, concordant care is critical to achieving better health outcomes for black, brown, and indigenous families. The LGBTQIA2S+ community, and transgender people in particular, are also in desperate need of midwives who have the training to serve capably, and with compassion and respect. We have to rally the

strength and vision required by this historical moment, because we are being called upon for greater accountability, greater coherence, and unity beyond anything we have attempted in the past. "We're in need of a comprehensive reparations approach that reflects and nurtures what Michelle Alexander has called a 'radical shift in public consciousness, an approach powerful enough to catalyze what Ta-Nehisi Coates calls "a national reckoning."

[How I Can Offer Reparations in Direct Proportion to My White Privilege](#)

We cannot stop talking about racism and colonialism because black, brown and Indigenous communities are still suffering as a result of myriad systems that were built for the benefit of white people. A reparations approach is about honestly acknowledging both the historic harms done and the enduring effects, and making a sincere effort to right the wrongs. In committing to this work, we are being given an opportunity to reclaim our humanity.

We invite you to engage with us in this critical work. Over the past year, with generous input and guidance from CPMs who want their professional association to keep "bending the arc toward justice," our leadership team revised our organizational [commitments](#). Also with support from our community, we've assembled an [Equity Resource Guide](#), with compelling readings, videos, and other great tools to help all of us deepen our collective learning. In the fall of 2018, we launched the Bigger Table Initiative, which currently includes our [targeted free membership](#) program and the [Bigger Table Fund](#), providing support for NARM exam and state licensing fees. Recent BTF award recipients are celebrated [here](#).

We encourage you to check out all of the above links. And for more information about what NACPM has been up to and is planning for 2019, the recording of our recent Virtual Annual Membership Meeting can be found [here](#).

We welcome your thoughts about all of these projects as well as your suggestions about how we can continue to build on this work, amplify what's being done within other organizations, and create meaningful and lasting partnerships.

With all best wishes,



Tanya Khemet Taiwo, CPM, MPH, PHD



Audrey Levine, LM, CPM-Ret.

Celebrating February 2019 Bigger Table Fund Awardees!



Rowan Twosisters



Marisol Arreola Melero



Felicia Chavando



Davonia Greenslade

It is with great pleasure that NACPM congratulates the latest Bigger Table Fund awardees: Davonia Greenslade's award to take the NARM examination, and Rowan Twosisters, Felicia Chavando and Marisol Arreola Melero who were awarded funding for state licensing fees. Congratulations! We look forward to the all the many contributions you will make to improve the lives and health of childbearing people in our country!

[The Bigger Table Fund](#) provides scholarships for student midwives of color, indigenous and/or LGBTQIA2S+ student midwives for the initial NARM examination fee, the fee for retaking the NARM examination when needed, and state licensure fees for those who are already CPMs.

The goal of the fund is to remove some of the significant financial barriers that student midwives of color, indigenous and/or LGBTQIA2S+ students and midwives face when entering the CPM profession. Funds are distributed quarterly, according to a lottery system, with \$3000 available per cycle. The maximum individual award is \$1000.

[Apply Now for the Next Cycle of the Bigger Table Fund!](#)

Eligible candidates may apply through [this form](#) by April 15. Notifications will go out by May 1.

Call for Contributions: Midwifery Matters Special Edition ~ Anti-Racism and Equity in Midwifery



The Midwifery Matters journal, issued twice a year by Birthwise Midwifery School, will publish a special summer edition from the perspective of an editorial and design team comprised of people of color to focus on the contributions from within communities of color. The perspectives and contributions of Black people and other people of color in midwifery are seldom acknowledged. This issue seeks not only to highlight creative solutions to the systemic racism that we know exists within the practice of midwifery as well as policies, education, and workforce but will also explore the impact these models have on both providers and communities of color.

The editors of this issue have put out a call for [pitches](#) (not completed articles) for commentary, analysis, reported stories and personal essays that explore these areas. [Please submit pitches to POCmidwifery@gmail.com](mailto:POCmidwifery@gmail.com) by **March 15**.

Watch for a call for academic submissions coming soon.

NACPM

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