



Dear Program Director,

As I have traveled across the country since becoming AAPA's president, I have had the honor and pleasure to meet with many of AAPA's constituent organizations to talk about how PAs are transforming healthcare. One of the highlights for me has been the opportunity to interact with PA students. AAPA values our student members, recognizing THEY are the future of our great profession.

AAPA's national conference – AAPA 2018 – will be held Saturday, May 19 through Wednesday, May 23, 2018, in New Orleans, Louisiana, with anticipated attendance of more than 7,000 PAs and PA students from across the country and across every practice setting and specialty. AAPA 2018 offers a unique opportunity for students to come together as a community to learn, build important professional relationships and network with their future colleagues, and gain valuable first-hand experience about all this great profession has to offer.

In addition to the competitive National Medical Challenge Bowl and exclusive student SPARK Sessions, your students will have the chance to:

- Attend CME sessions, hearing from thought leaders in the medical field;
- Participate in outstanding educational programs designed specifically for future PAs;
- Network and establish valuable connections at the AAPA Career Fair;
- Present their research projects and view those of their peers at ePoster Sessions;
- Connect with practicing PAs, clinical preceptors and mentors;
- Participate in the student Assembly of Representatives (AOR) in order to better understand the active role student leaders play in achieving AAPA's mission and vision and the variety of leadership opportunities available to our student members;
- Attend the AAPA House of Delegates (HOD) to better understand how the policy impacting PA practice is determined.

As an educator and the Chair of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine's Department of PA Studies, I understand the financial burdens facing PA students. As President of AAPA, I am writing to ask you to consider granting financial aid to your AAPA student members and excuse their class absence so they can represent your program at this important professional event. You can find more information about AAPA 2018 at [aapaconference.org](http://aapaconference.org). The AAPA Student and PA Program membership team is available to answer any questions at [PAPrograms@aapa.org](mailto:PAPrograms@aapa.org).

We appreciate the guidance and support you provide to the future leaders of our great profession and look forward to seeing you and your students at AAPA 2018.

Sincerely,

L. Gail Curtis, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA  
President and Chair of the Board