Public Policy Forum 2025 Speaker Bios

Veronica J. Brady, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, CDCES, FADCES, is the 2025 ADCES President. She has

been a practicing Family Nurse Practitioner for 20 years and is an Assistant Professor at the Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston. Brady maintains a clinical nursing practice at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in the department of Endocrinology. She joined the faculty of UTHealth Houston in summer 2019, after working at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine as an associate professor in the Department of Endocrinology, where she maintained a diabetes practice. Her care of patients with diabetes includes those with type 1, type 2, gestational and pre-diabetes across the lifespan. In addition to her volunteer work with ADCES, Brady has served the editorial board for American Diabetes Associations (ADA) Diabetes Spectrum.

Hannah Martin, MPH, RDN, is the Director of Advocacy at ADCES. Hannah oversees the development

and implementation of ADCES' public policy program, federal legislative and regulatory initiatives, and state advocacy priorities. She works to cultivate relationships with ADCES members and volunteer leaders, policymakers, allied professional and advocacy organizations, industry partners, and other external stakeholders to advance policy priorities that improve access to care for people with diabetes and those at risk for diabetes. Prior to joining ADCES, Hannah served as the Director of Legislative and Government Affairs responsible for health policy at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has also served terms as co-chair of the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance and the Obesity Care Advocacy Network, and as President and Public Policy Coordinator for the DC Metro Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Hannah is a registered dietitian with an MPH and BSPH in nutrition, both from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a DrPH candidate in health policy at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health.
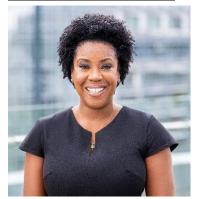
Sheila Burke, MPA, BSN, FAAN, serves as a Senior Public Policy Advisor and Chair of the Government Relations Policy Group at Baker Donelson in Washington D.C. Ms. Burke is also an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. She served as Executive Dean of the school from 1996-2000. From 2000-2007 she served as Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the Smithsonian Institution. Previously she had been Chief of Staff to former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (1985-1996), a professional staff member of the Senate Committee on Finance (1979-1982), and Deputy Staff Director of that committee (1982 to 1985). She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and the American Academy of Nursing. She served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (2000-2007) and on the Kaiser Family Foundation board (1999-2008), where she served as Chair.

Tiffani V. Williams, JD, MPH, is a Senior Vice President and Public Policy Advisor at The Daschle Group and Of Counsel at Baker Donelson. She has 20 years of government affairs experience representing multinational companies and organizations across the health care, energy, food and agriculture, and education sectors, advancing clients' business and public policy priorities at the federal and state levels. She provides clients with a full range of services including political and thought leadership strategy, regulatory and policy analysis, and advocacy before Congress and executive branch agencies. She has authored and contributed to a number of publications on topics related to her practice. She has been recognized by *The Hill*, the National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics, and Lawyers of Color as one of D.C.'s top lobbyists. Tiffani holds a B.S. from American University, a M.P.H. from Yale University, and a J.D. from University of California, Berkeley. She serves on the Board of the Washington Government Relations Group and is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Corporate Advisory Council and the Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Health Care Industry Foundation (WBL).

Brian Lee, JD, MPH, is the Managing Director of the Diabetes Technology Access Coalition and Partner in Alston & Bird's Health Care Policy group. At Alston & Bird, Brian focuses his practice on regulatory and legislative issues concerning federal reimbursement for and regulation of physicians, hospitals, post-acute care providers, and manufacturers. Brian received his JD from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and his MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Rebecca Spangler is the Senior Government Relations Director at the American College of Radiology (ACR). Ms. Spangler lobbies the federal government and Congress on behalf of ACR members nationwide. Her issue portfolio mainly focuses on Medicare Physician Payment, and Rebecca has led a coalition of more than 120 physician and non-physician specialty organizations on payment reform since 2020. Prior to joining ACR in 2009, Ms. Spangler worked as a federal lobbyist for the College of American Pathologists (CAP) in Washington, DC. She began her career working on health care issues for Pennsylvania State Senator Michael A. O'Pake (D-Berks) before moving to Washington to work for former Congressman Tim Holden (D-PA). She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2000 and currently resides in Washington, DC.

Janet Benefield, MS, RDN, LD, CDCES, is Chair of the 2025 ADCES Advocacy Committee. Janet is a quality dietitian for North Alabama Community Care, an ACHN for Alabama Medicaid. Janet has worked with individuals with all types of diabetes as part of her responsibilities working in hospitals, public health and various other outpatient settings. Janet has been active both as an individual and in leadership roles in advocacy at grassroots and state levels with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and grassroots and national levels with ADCES. Janet completed her undergraduate degree in nutrition and dietetics at the University of Alabama and her MS degree with a major in nutrition and minor in public health at the University of Tennessee.

Andrea McCarty, MS, RDN, LDN, CDCES, BC-ADM, is a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with over 20 years of experience. She is a current member of the ADCES Advocacy Committee. Andrea works as a Certified Diabetes Dietitian in Pediatric Endocrinology at WVU Medicine Children's in Morgantown, WV. She holds a Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, is a trained Lifestyle Coach for the National Diabetes Prevention Program, and recently became Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management. Andrea received her BS in human nutrition and foods from West Virginia University and her MS in nutrition from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago, IL.

Gina R. Ward, MS, RDN, CDCES, is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Care and Education. Gina currently serves on the ADCES Advocacy Committee. Her work experience includes nearly 25 years serving as a Clinical Nutrition Manager and Quality Care Coordinator of an ADA-accredited diabetes program, providing nutrition support, medical nutrition therapy, and diabetes services both inpatient and outpatient. Gina has served on the Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Executive Board for the past six years. For the past two years, she spearheaded efforts to pass Dietitian Compact Licensure in Utah and she was awarded the Utah Dietitian of the Year for 2025 by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has a special place in her heart for individuals who struggle with diabetes. Her eldest son has type 1, and she has many family members, friends and clients who face difficult challenges with diabetes care. She is passionate about securing funding to preserve diabetes and nutrition programs and expand coverage for the medicines and technologies people need to be successful in diabetes management.