



Billy S. Collins, DHSc, MS, PA-C
Director-at-Large



Elected to AAPA's Board of Directors as director-at-large in 2017, Billy Collins is a seasoned leader, having served in the AAPA House of Delegates, North Carolina Academy of PAs (NCAPA) and the Public Health Service Academy of PAs. He has also been appointed to multiple terms on AAPA's Commission of Continuing Professional Development and Education (CCPDE). In addition to his work with the AAPA, he serves as a representative to the American Diabetes Association Primary Care Advisory Group.

Following a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy, Collins continued his leadership journey during PA school. He was elected student director to NCAPA and began serving as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. As new leader within the PA profession, Collins began a teaching fellowship through Duke University, where he began to mentor PA students throughout the state.

Once the fellowship was completed, Collins directed his long-held commitment to public-service and the PA profession to progressively advanced roles in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), where he currently holds the rank of Commander. Many of his assignments allowed him to serve in underserved and vulnerable communities. Most recently, he worked with the Indian Health Service on the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas reservation in Polk County, TX. During this time, the appreciation for PA education which he gained at Duke was not forgotten, and led to his precepting PA and nursing students in Texas.

Collins currently serves as Clinic Administrator for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institute of Health, and continues to serve as chair and on various committees and advisory groups within the U.S. Public Health Service.

Collins believes strongly in the power of education and life-long learning and works tirelessly to ensure PAs and others have the opportunities to achieve their goals. In addition to his work with the CCPDE, Collins has served as a USPHS mentor for nearly a decade, a USPHS career development reviewer, and on the admissions committee of both Duke and Campbell Universities. His doctoral capstone project was on the effectiveness of teaching fellowships in preparing PAs for academia and he received the certificate of appreciation for completing the Duke University Teaching Fellowship.

Collins earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Care from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, TX and his Master of Science degree in PA studies at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. He received his Doctorate of Health Sciences degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL.