

Legacy of Empowerment: 50 Years Strong



Henrietta Villaescusa, MPH, RN*
Past President
1984-1986 & 1986-1988

Key Initiatives/Achievements

- Co-founder of NAHN.
- As Chief Nurse Consultant in the Office of Maternal and Child Health, Bureau of Community Health Services, she formulated national nursing health policies & plans for women & children, including addressing infant mortality and the establishment of community and migrant worker health clinics.
- Led the development of a comprehensive Hispanic Health Bibliography (Villaescusa, 1986, as cited in Villaruel & Fairman, 2024, p2), amplifying the need for research and data on the health needs of the Hispanics.

Final thoughts

"The search for the future requires tough minds and tender hearts. During these days when we meet to plan for the future we will all inhabit, our greatest resource may be to approach the present aware of our personal and professional past. A viable future is built on twin pillars of past and present. Our culture illuminates this lesson with the word *recordar*. That is, to remember is not simply an intellectual exercise, but a habit of the heart. For NAHN, the future will bear fruit if during our deliberations we can recall that persons with heart can move mountains and even change minds, but that it must first begin with ourselves" (Henrietta Villaescusa (1986). *Biennial Conference Supplement Message from the President of NAHN*. Retrieved from Murillo Rohde archived materials. UPENN Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing.