

## WIN Emeritus

### **Nominee:**

Joan Shaver, RN, PhD  
Dean Emeritus  
University of Arizona College of Nursing

### **Sponsor:**

Margaret Heitkemper, RN, PhD  
Professor  
University of Washington School of Nursing

### **Co-Sponsor:**

Nancy Woods, RN, PhD  
Dean Emeritus  
University of Washington School of Nursing

### **Co-Sponsor:**

Tina DeLapp, RN, EdD  
Dean Emeritus  
University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing

Dear Selection Committee:

It is a great pleasure to nominate Dr. Joan Shaver, Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona School of Nursing, for the 2026 WIN Emeriti Award.

I first met Dr. Shaver in 1977 when we gave our first oral presentations in the same session at a WICHEN/WIN conference. She masterly presented the results of her PhD dissertation related to renal physiology. In the early 1980s when we were both Assistant Professors at the University of Washington and until 1996 when she joined the faculty as dean at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Joan was an active participant at the annual WIN research conferences. She mentored masters and doctoral students encouraging them to present their results at WIN. Many of these early mentees, as well as collaborators and colleagues from the University of Washington went on to leadership roles in the WIN organization.

In her elected president position on the American Academy of Nursing board, Joan advocated for the regional nursing science presidents to serve as members of Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) board. A new grant mechanism was created and there was greater communication and coordination of activities across the regions. This was an important compromise at a time when regional organizations were concerned about decreasing memberships.

When she returned to the West in 2008 to the University of Arizona as Dean, she re-started her commitment to WIN and its success. In addition to being an active attendee at conferences she served as a member of the WIN ad hoc Governance Committee and Convener for the WAN annual meetings in 2023-2025. To these positions she used her leadership skills to further enhance the reach of WIN, encouraged and supported the participation of students and faculty, and challenged others to participate in strategic planning.

Joan's important contributions to nursing science in the areas of women's health across the lifespan and symptom science, in particular sleep, were recognized by the WIN program committee with the Distinguished Nursing Research Lecture Award. Joan's footprint in WIN reflects almost 40 years of direct and indirect service to WIN.

Margaret Heitkemper, RN, PhD  
Professor  
University of Washington School of Nursing

Dear Selection Committee:

I am delighted to co-sponsor nomination of Dr. Joan Shaver for Emerita Status in the Western Institute of Nursing. I have known Joan since 1969-1970 when we were both graduate students in Nursing at the University of Washington. In 1979, after returning to University of Washington as a faculty member I attended the WIN meeting, re-connecting with Joan who was attending from the University of Arizona. In a few years Dr. Shaver returned to the University of Washington. In a very short time we began collaborating on research related to women's health, her focus on sleep and menopause, and as Co-Director of the Center for Women's Health Research having helped imagine the proposal that was funded in 1990. The WIN meeting became an annual focal point for presenting our work, engaging faculty in participating in symposia, promoting graduate student engagement in presentations, and networking across the WIN region.

Dr. Shaver's expertise in sleep research, along with her doctoral studies in physiology, positioned her to mentor many WIN investigators throughout the region. Her leadership of the Sleep Lab at UW provided a host of opportunities for WIN members who had opportunity to work with Dr. Shaver as future graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and new and senior faculty, as well as garnering her expert consultation about sleep research, women's health, and a host of other topics. Her generosity extended her expertise to a number of schools in the WIN region where she served as a consultant for research as well as education, e.g. University of Alaska. Her presentations at WIN meetings always drew those who were ready to learn, question, and engage in discussion following the presentations.

Recognizing that engaging the membership of WIN in socializing, as well as research critique, Dr. Shaver was the founder of the WIN Skit Competition, a practice that added humor and fun to our otherwise serious conversations. Among many memorable moments was witnessing a senior member of the National Center for Nursing Research Staff laughing with tears running down her cheeks as she was portrayed in one of the skits (Dr. Doris Bloch, aka "Dotty Cube in the skit). We learned not to take ourselves so seriously after that! Fortunately that was not the end of Dr. Shaver's research career!!

Dr. Shaver has a reputation for her excellent mentorship, investing generously in anyone seeking her wisdom. At University of Washington she provided expert reviews of grant proposals, manuscripts, and presentations to faculty and students alike. She shared similar experiences around the region, often engaging with WIN members during poster sessions and after-presentation conversations, as well as between meetings.

WIN loaned Dr. Shaver to the University of Illinois at Chicago for a decade during which she served as Dean. Garnering recognition from another regional nursing research organization: the Midwest Nursing Research Society awarded her the Lifetime Achievement Award for Research. Recognized for her leadership at UIC, Dr. Shaver was recruited to University of Arizona as Dean and returned to the WIN community once again.

Nancy Woods, RN, PhD  
Dean Emeritus  
University of Washington School of Nursing

Dear Selection Committee:

I enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Dr Joan Shaver for Emerita status within the Western Institute of Nursing. I first met Dr. Shaver through WIN (Then WHICHEN/WSRN) and her reaction to me as a young unknown from Alaska made clear the spirit of WIN – expertise, coupled with inclusiveness! She actually remembered my name from year-to-year.

Over the years, I interacted with Dr. Shaver only occasionally but always in relation to matters that were important to a small and distant school seeking to grow its research capacity and its ability to address the needs of our very rural and spread-out State. Dr. Shaver helped me to connect with UW doctoral students who might eventually consider a faculty position in a distant and still developing institution. And she immediately reacted when I talked with her about our experience with a former Alaska student who was attempting to complete his undergraduate nursing education at U.W.

Perhaps my most memorable experience with Dr. Shaver was when she agreed to serve as a main speaker at the Annual Research Conference of our young Sigma Theta Tau chapter. As I recall, she actually gave three presentations at our one-day conference, which sought to engage both nursing faculty and local clinical nursing staff in nursing research activities. Her initial presentation covered the basics of identifying researchable problems in clinical practice, after which small groups identified their own researchable questions and reported back to the total group. The afternoon began with Dr. Shaver talking about the next steps, with the small groups then addressing their identified question, again reporting back. Finally, Dr. Shaver did a conference “wrap-up”. I still encounter nurses who tell me that that one-day conference tell me that it was the best conference they ever attended, that it inspired them to pursue a graduate degree, and/or that it made them see the value of nursing research. And at the end of the day, when she was presented with her honorarium check, she promptly signed it over to our local chapter – it was used to fund a small fund to support local research projects. And the following year, one of those small groups presented the results of their follow-through project at the conference.

My point in relating all this is that Dr. Shaver embodies the inclusive spirit of WIN. Clearly a superb scholar with an admirable research record, Dr. Shaver conveyed clear appreciation for what we were trying to do in Alaska and respect for what we accomplished. She automatically worked to tie nursing research with nursing education and clinical practice in a way that made us all believe that we too could make important difference in the health of the West.

And, of course, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention Riff-Raff; she and Marie Cowan through their Riff-Raff emcee performances, helped multiple generations of nurse scholars and nurse educators realize the importance of having fun and not taking ourselves too seriously!!

Joan has given much to WIN; she deserves the honor of Emerita status.

Tina DeLapp, RN, EdD  
Dean Emeritus  
University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing