

## **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD**

### **Calling All Leaders!**

In just a few weeks, my official service on the NAHQ board will come to an end. As I fondly look back over my years of volunteering with NAHQ and bask in the great progress that has occurred within our association and profession, I am convinced that NAHQ's best times are yet to come. We have an unprecedented opportunity to contribute to the advancement of healthcare quality and patient safety now that these issues have grabbed the attention of consumers, payers, providers, and policy-makers. NAHQ needs principled, visionary, influential, and effective leaders who can continue to push for excellence within and beyond our profession. NAHQ needs you.

Many ways to serve your profession are open to you. From working on a task team, publishing an article in our journal or newsletter, or speaking at a conference or workshop to serving on the board, NAHQ provides limitless opportunities for healthcare quality professionals to develop and refine their capacity for leadership. In 2008, the Nominating Team developed a NAHQ career-planning matrix that is available on the NAHQ Web site (<http://www.nahq.org/>). Whether you are ultimately interested in serving on the board, achieving Fellowship status, or merely developing new leadership competencies, this tool will help you develop your personal strategic plan by pointing you toward various professional service opportunities.

The Nominating Team is currently seeking candidates for the 2009 NAHQ elections. Position descriptions and nomination forms are available on the NAHQ Web site. Please nominate yourself or a colleague! The Nominating Team is also planning to begin matching emerging leaders with mentors who can help them achieve their NAHQ career goals. Let us know if you are interested in participating in the leader-mentor program.

Thank you for the privilege of serving NAHQ. I look forward to watching the association and its individual members advance along their journeys "from good to great"!

Heidi Benson, MS RN CPHQ FNAHQ  
Immediate Past President