Lambda Beta Newsletter

Fall 2026

The National Honor Society for the Profession of Respiratory Care

Contents

p 1 Passing the Torch: A Presidential Handoff

p 2 Welcome New Members 2026

p 4 Welcome New Chapters / Lambda Beta Memorabilia

p 5 Save The Date! AARC Congress 2026

p 6 2026 Scholarship Winners

p 8 Brian K. Walsh, PhD, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, FAARC, Receives National Honorary Membership Nomination

p 9 Lambda Beta Society Board Members

Passing the Torch: A Presidential Handoff

By Amanda L. Leightner, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPSGT, RST, CCSH, FAARC, FNAP Outgoing President



Every respiratory therapist knows the most important moment of any shift is not the code, the vent change, or the 3 a.m. ABG. It is the handoff report. Do it well, and the next person walks calmly, informed, and ready to shine. Do it poorly, and someone is spending the first hour figuring out why the alarm limits are set to "optimistic" and who left the ambu bag in the supply closet.

We have all received that report. You know the one: "Patient's fine. Mostly. There was a thing earlier, but it is probably resolved. Good luck!"

I promised myself my last act as president would not be that report. So, pull up a chair, grab your coffee (or your third coffee), and consider this my official handoff.

Situation: My term as President of the Lambda Beta Society comes to a close at the end of this year. The gavel is warm, the agenda is full, and the next leader is standing at the bedside, ready to take over.

Background: Serving as president has been one of the great privileges of my career, and these two past years gave us plenty to celebrate:

- **We invested in the next generation.** Lambda Beta awarded $32,000 in scholarships to ten outstanding students in 2025 and 2026 through our Helmholz, Leadership, Leidich, and Mikle's scholarships, representing programs from Vermont to California.
- **We grew our family.** We welcomed 1,050 new members and recruited sixteen new chapters, bringing us to 183 active chapters across the country.
- **We strengthened our Board.** We welcomed MaryBeth Cregger, EdD, RRT, Melissa Ash, MBA, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, RRT-SDS, CPFT, AE-C, Tonya Cook, MEd, RRT, Glenn Pippen II, MBA, RRT, Trevor Lee, RRT, MSRC, and Sheri Tooley, BSRT, RRT-NPS, CPFT, AE-C, FAARC, to our Board.
- **We showed up.** Lambda Beta was on the exhibit floor at the AARC Summer Forum in Fort Lauderdale and Bonita Springs, as well as the AARC International Congress in Phoenix. We are heading to New Orleans this year, where we will host our Lambda Beta Reception on November 15. Stop by the exhibit booth and say hello!
- **We honored legends.** Teresa A. Volsko, MBA, MHHS, RRT, CMTE, FAARC, was named our 2025 National Honorary Member and this year will recognize Brian K. Walsh, PhD, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, FAARC, for contributions to respiratory care through education, scholarship, and leadership.

Passing the Torch: A Presidential Handoff (Continued)

None of this happened because of one person. It happened because of a dedicated Executive Board that debated thoughtfully and decided wisely, our Executive Secretary Debbie Farrow, whose behind-the-scenes work keeps everything running like a perfectly calibrated ventilator, our scholarship reviewers, our booth volunteers, our chapter advisors, and a community of students and professionals who show up for their patients and their profession every single day.

Assessment: The Lambda Beta Society is in excellent health.

- Heart rate: steady and strong
- Respiratory rate: right on target
- Saturation: 100% room air (and full of enthusiasm)
- Mental status: alert, oriented, and future-focused
- Overall impression: this Society is thriving, and its best days are ahead of it.

Recommendation: Welcome your new president, Dr. Sherry Whiteman, with the same excitement you would give a perfectly timed respiratory therapy consult. Continue current plan of care: support one another, celebrate academic excellence, and keep raising the bar for our profession. Follow up as needed. Prognosis: excellent.

Welcome New Members 2026

Amanda Alaniz
Manahil Aldadi
Leen Alghabra
Abdullah Almutairi
Jessica Hoyos Alomia
Abdullatif Althbyani
Julianne Angelini
Brian Appleby
Leslie Arvilla
Tymeri Asada
Emily Ascencio
Kinsey Beam
Molly Belk
Mylia Belton
Jerald Berdijo
Isabel Berrios
Clarence Berry
Dustin Bickler
Tyler Bishop
Kaleigh Bitner
Kelly Block
Stacy Blum
Chavely Calderon Bodre
McKenzie Boschert
Kaitlin Bowen
Courtney Boyd
Dramel Boykin
Jazzmyn Bradley
Jadajah Bright
Alexys Brooks
Grace Brown
Raven Brown
Kelsey Brownsberger
Jada Butler
Angela Bychuk
Oscar Cadena
Nicole Campos
Alicia Caputto
Brian Carillo
Hannah Carpenter
Alexander Castro
Vanessa Chagolla
Wen Chen
Calvin Cheung
Karlee Christian
Emmalie Cooper
Lianne Corcoran
Rylee Cornelison
Elisia Corral
Shannon Coulter
Nicole Crisman
Tesha Cross
Praise Dada
Aya Daifallah
Christine Dancoisne
Jasmine Darden
Luke Dean
Pamela Debutts
Yuliia Demchenko
Heather Anne Dement
Derek Derrickson
Leticia Sandoval Diaz
Lauren Diduch
Claudy Dieudonne
Jennifer Do
Taylor Duenas
Adam Dughi
Jean Paul Dumangas
Walailak Dutchawan
Sydney Eckart
Haley Edwards
Gabby Eicher
Sarina Escalante
Easter Nichole Evangelista
Katilyn Ezerskis
Daniel Flores
Ciara Flowers
David Ford
Meredith Forman
Jose Franz Marrufo
Memori Freeman
Sebastian Frissora
Hope Fulkerson
Nhi Dang Galarza
Breanne Galassi
Elizabeth Galicia
Alexandra Garcia
Allie Garcia
Bobbi Garcia
David Garcia
Diana Garcia
Diva Garcia
Kayla Gardiner
Jasmine Gardner
Aryan Gheewalla
Miracle Glover
Jocelyn Gonzalez
Vivianna Gonzalez
Emily Green
Marissa Gregory
Nicholas Grimard
Jashara Guerrier
Kaylee Guillemette
Karolyn Polanco Gutierrez
Danielle Gwynn
Kristen Hanges
Shiloh Hanners
Austin Hardin
Kaitlyn Harding
Hillarey Hart
Angelique Hawkins
Brittany Henderson
Elaina Hernandez
Courtney Higginbotham
Macey Holthaus
Cheyenne Hoover
Rebecca Horning
Kyleigh Hostetter
Lana Houth
Blake Humecky

Welcome New Members 2026 (cont.)

Michael Hura
Yosef Ibrahim
Jessica Jackson
Lynn Jentsch
Erica Jerrall
Chase Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Brandon Jovel
Alexis Juarez
David Katrychuk
Rahaf Keesh
Colleen Kelly
Jacob Kelly
Zobia Khan
Morgan Kiener
Rachael Kiser
Cheyanne Kline
Alexandra Ko
Nickey Kuhn
Iryna Kurasova
Marissa Labeef
Lena Lalka
Justin Landaverde
Arub Lara
Rayna Larsen
Renee Lattavo
Samantha Laughlin
Holly Lavicka
Michael Le
Alyssa Levine
Andrew Li
Michael Lindsey
Ricky Liu
Sadie Lopez
Jaymar Macasadia
MacKenzie MacMahon
Henry Marckenson
Jessica Marshall

Alisha Martinho
Hannah Maupin
Nicholas Maxwell
Gia McAloon
Laurel McAlpine
Kimberly McCoubrey
Tanya McCray
James McCurdy
Jett McHenry
Christopher McQuillan
Guadalupe Feliciano Mendez
Paige Mendez
Ulisses Mestiza
Denver Meunier
Daisy Meza
Chelsea Milanowski
Gabriel Miller
Mutaz Mohamed
Elizabeth Moran
Sierra Morris
Alica Muellereleile
Robert Mulvaney
Diana Murha
Hannah Murphy
Dashneel Naicker
Paige Nastawa
Ariana Curbelo Negron
Shantel Nelson
Addison Nguyen
Anh Nguyen
Charlie Nguyen
Kathleen Nguyen
Wendy Nguyen
Bradley Nosbisch
Chioma Ogbonna
Elizabeth Ogunyemi
Julia Olivarez
Kyle Ollenborger

Ruthie Oneill
Htet Oo
Leticia Ortiz
Mayra Osorio
Shelby Ott
Kayla Owens
Monica Pacheco
David Parker
Dakota Parsons
Shiv Patel
Mackenzie Patterson
Douglas Peck
Karina Perez
Christina Petges
Sabine Jean Philippe
Zarion Pitre
Alexandra Pocoroba
Thomas Polkinghorne
Arthur Pomiecinski
Alexis Pope
Grant Protzman
Marissa Prough
Olivia Purkey
Abigail Quigley
Kenneth Quigley
Sarah Quina
Autumn Ramos
Elizabeth Ramos
Kimberly Razo
Corey Reagin
Jose Regalado
Amaal Reynolds
Janaiya Rhodes
Justin Ridad
Donnell Ritz
Marissa Robles
Cinthia Rodriguez
Michelle Rodriguez

Sarah Roman
Edwin Aguirre Rosas
Angel Rubio
Giovanny Ruiz
Sophia Saenz
Valerie Salazar
Elisa Sanchez
Oscar Sanchez
Manraj Sandhu
Archana Sawant
Carissa Schneider
Jay Sears
Rene Sevilla
Alexandra Shafer
Amelia Sharp
Mark Shehata
Alyssa Shell
Svitlana Shnurenko
McKinley Shrum
Enrique Sierra
Chelsey Singh
Alyssa Sirna
Sarah Sitar
Kathy Sloan
Andrell Smith
Angela Bonacci Smith
Samantha Smith
Haley Snodgrass
Lana Snyder
Meredith Snyder
Alaa Sowayci
Katelin Stadtler
Ashley Stafford
Tia Stelzman
Casey Stiffler
Nikita Stinson
Melissa Strack
Matthew Sturgill

Nandanie Subnaik
Logan Sun
Kaitlyn Sutton
Leyla Tamalova
Jessica Tamayo
Jasmine Tatham
Phillips Taylor
Mesfun Tesfagiorgis
Kim Thomason
Mackenzie Thompson
Alexza Toralba
Chase Trinkle
Ashli Turrubiartes
Cierra Vargas
Kevin Vargas
Kayla Victoria
Jahbre Wainwright
Cody Walters
Maggie Wanamaker
Jaycie Weed
Amber Weeks
Abigail West
Ferrari West
Kayla Wilkerson
Abrianna Williams
Chad Williams
Bianca Casarrubias Wilson
Deana Wood
Mallory Young
Nigora Yulchieva
Ava Yurczyk
Emilia Zamora
Guadalupe Zarate
Abigail Zartman
Zachary Zuniga

Lambda Beta Memorabilia

We offer two ways to proudly display your membership in the Lambda Beta Society.



Gold-Plated Honor Pin (Lambda Beta Logo) - $20

Honor Cords (Lambda Beta Colors) - $20

Prices do not include shipping charges.

To order, click here to go to Lambdabeta.org

Individuals must be a member to purchase memorabilia.

Welcome New Chapters

Welcome to all of our new chapters! Thank you for forming a new chapter at your institution and joining us.

Ozarks Technical Community College - *Springfield, MO*

Riverside College Of Health Sciences - *Newport News, VA*

Colorado Mesa University - *Grand Junction, CO*

South College - Atlanta - *Atlanta, GA*

The Lambda Beta Society would love to pay tribute to chapters and inform the membership of ongoing programs and achievements by highlighting one or more noteworthy items from our chapters and its members. Please send us your news items, pictures, and accomplishments so we may recognize you.

Want to start your own chapter? Click here for more information.



The LAMBDA BETA Society

Save The Date!

AARC Congress is Nov. 14-17 in New Orleans, LA.

Swing by the Lambda Beta booth (#335) and NBRC booth (#337) to get some free swag!

2026 Scholarship Winners

$2,500 H. Frederic Helmholz, Jr., MD Scholarship

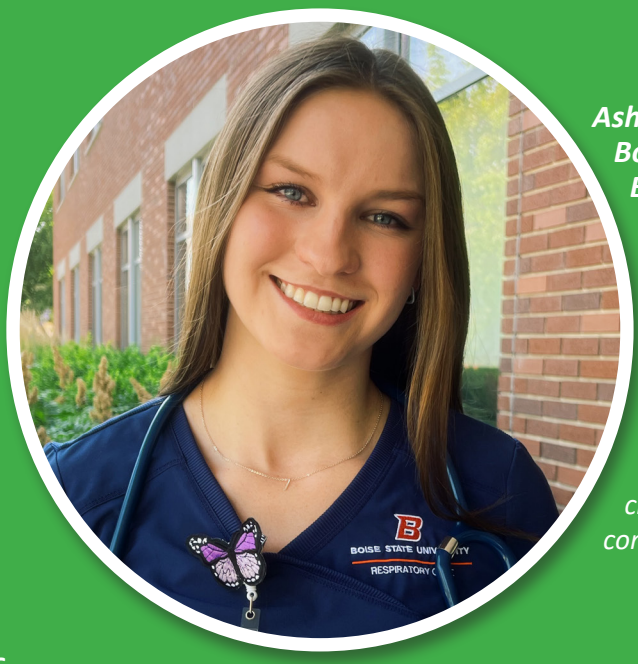


Morgan Dickey
Columbia, TN
Columbia State Community College

I am honored to be the recipient of the Lambda Beta 2026 H. Frederic Helmholz, Jr., MD Scholarship. I am a single mother of two young children and a full-time student at Columbia State Community College. The respiratory program has given me a chance to live a more purposeful life and fulfill my aspiration to help others. I have also gained so much admiration for respiratory care practitioners and what they do every day. Healthcare careers can often be thankless. It speaks volumes about those who have chosen this career path. It can be extremely challenging to balance my numerous responsibilities as a student and mother. Therefore, it is such a privilege to be recognized for my academic efforts and achievements. I would like to thank Lambda Beta, the NBRC, and the AARC for cultivating a community that encourages students to push toward their goals and for all the resources they make available. I would also like to thank my program and clinical directors, Mrs. Pamela Lindemann and Mr. Roger Major, for their continuous support, mentorship, and knowledge that they share.

I look forward to my future in respiratory care, and I hope to make a difference.

$1,500 Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship



Ashley Stafford
Boise, ID
Boise State University

I am so grateful for the opportunity to receive the Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship. As a first-generation student, being able to explore the wonders of education has led me to achieve my greatest dreams of working at Duke University Hospital as a pediatric respiratory therapist, while also starting my career in education. The Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship supports students to break down barriers and achieve their greatest potential in the academic environment. Boise State University created endless opportunities for me to grow, learn, and be a part of the community. For both, I am so very appreciative.

$5,000 NBRC Leadership Award

Guadalupe Arambula
San Antonio, TX
University of Texas Health San Antonio



I am incredibly honored and grateful to be selected as the recipient of the 2026 NBRC Leadership Award. Over the past two years as a respiratory care student, I have given my education everything I have—academically, clinically, through leadership, research, service, and mentorship. Receiving this award is especially meaningful because it feels like a recognition of the countless hours, challenges, sacrifices, and experiences that have shaped me throughout this journey. It reminds me that the work we put into becoming better students, clinicians, leaders, and advocates can have an impact far beyond the classroom.

What makes this scholarship even more exciting is what it represents for my future. My education in respiratory care has inspired me not only to become an excellent respiratory therapist, but also to continue contributing to the profession through research and education. I plan to apply to a PhD program with the goal of beginning my doctoral education in 2027. This award will cover the cost of my first semester, making that next step feel even more attainable and giving me so much to look forward to as I begin the next chapter of my education.

I am deeply thankful to the Lambda Beta Society and the National Board for Respiratory Care for this recognition and investment in my future. I hope to honor this award by continuing to pursue excellence, serve the respiratory care community, mentor future students, and contribute to research and education that advance our profession. Receiving this scholarship is both an incredible honor and a reminder to continue reaching for the goals that once seemed far away.



I am truly honored and grateful to be the recipient of the 2026 NBRC Leadership Award. Receiving this recognition means so much to me and encourages me to continue striving for excellence in respiratory care and in my future career in medicine.

My journey at Tennessee State University has challenged me to grow academically, clinically, and personally. I have been fortunate to learn from people who have not only invested in my education but have also encouraged me to see the potential in myself and in the future that I am working toward.

I am especially thankful to my mentors, Dr. Batts, Dr. Leveque, and Professor Poindexter, for their guidance, encouragement, and belief in me throughout my journey. I am also incredibly grateful to my family, friends, and everyone who has supported me along the way.

Thank you to the NBRC and Lambda Beta Society for this incredible honor and for investing in the future of respiratory care. I am truly grateful and excited for what lies ahead.

Kaitlyn Graham
Nashville, TN
Tennessee State University

Brian K. Walsh, PhD, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, FAARC, Receives National Honorary Membership Nomination



Congratulations to Dr. Brian K. Walsh, Professor and Chair of Respiratory Therapy at The University of Texas Medical Branch, on being nominated as the 2026 Lambda Beta National Honorary Member due to his indelible work spanning more than three decades of clinical practice, research, education, leadership, innovation and service to the profession.

Notably, Dr. Walsh has authored or co-authored more than sixty peer-reviewed publications on pediatric and neonatal ventilation, oxygen therapy, respiratory monitoring, aerosol delivery, mechanical ventilation quality improvement, and evidence-based clinical practice. His work has appeared in leading journals, including Respiratory Care, Critical Care Medicine, Pediatrics, CHEST, The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, Anesthesiology and Science Translational Medicine.

He has also served as editor of multiple editions of the foundational textbook *Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care*, which has helped educate generations of respiratory therapists, physicians, and other healthcare professionals. His lectures have reached audiences across North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East and beyond.

Beyond the world of academia, he has also worked hard to bring new inventions into the respiratory care field. He was awarded patents involving respiratory monitoring, computer-aided mechanical ventilation, extubation assessment technologies and ventilator-related innovations, turning scientific knowledge into practical tools that improve patient care.

Dr. Walsh served not only as a published educator and an industrious innovator, but he has also served as President and later Past President of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC). His leadership helped shape the national vision for respiratory care during a period of significant transformation and his service on numerous AARC committees and national guideline initiatives has left a lasting mark on standards of care and professional development.

His peers have recognized that service repeatedly. He is a Fellow of the AARC, a recipient of the AARC Neo/Peds Specialty Practitioner of the Year Award, and an AARC Life Member.

Those he has mentored describe a leader who never treated education, research, clinical practice and professional service as separate pursuits, but as parts of a single mission: to improve the profession so that patient care improves too. Khamron Micheals, PhD, MHA, RRT, describes one lesson Dr. Walsh imparted on him,

“During his time at Boston Children's Hospital, he often spoke about the tradition of physicians wearing short white coats as a reminder that they should always remain learners. Although he has held nearly every leadership position our profession has to offer, he has always embodied that same mindset. He approaches every new challenge with curiosity, humility, and a willingness to continue learning. More importantly, he instills that mindset in the people he mentors. It is a lesson that has shaped how I approach research, education, and leadership, and one that I know has influenced many others throughout the profession.”

Lambda Beta National Honorary Membership recognizes careers that have advanced the science, practice, and future of respiratory care. Dr. Walsh's leadership has strengthened the profession, his scholarship has improved patient care, and his mentorship has shaped future generations of respiratory therapists, educators, and scientists.

Congratulations, Brian K. Walsh, PhD, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, FAARC!

Lambda Beta Society Board Members

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Summerville, SC

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