



**Nancy Chaney (AD 1977)** exudes a visionary passion for influencing healthy bodies, healthy communities and health care in her mayoral position since 2006 at Moscow, ID. Her influence extends from local to national levels. At the local level, she promotes programs including Safe Routes to School; the White House's initiative "Let's Move!", the Active Living Task Force (one of 5 Idaho sites selected to participate); sustainable food systems; pandemic flu preparedness; extensions of walking and cyclist trails; uniquely utilizing Bobcat utility work machines for clearing snow from paths for safe walking by pedestrians, including the elderly and the disabled; and increasing the caliber of the region's emergency health care via a paramedic training program. Recently she facilitated a multi-stakeholder, solution-based forum addressing poverty on the Palouse. At the state level, she was elected 2nd Vice President by the Association of Idaho Cities for 2011 and is on track to become First Vice President in 2012 and President in 2013. At the national level, she chairs the National League of Cities (NLC) University Communities Council. She was appointed to NLC's Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee where there is opportunity to influence national policymaking and funding for projects and programs involving ecosystem health. Her various roles help advance positions that are motivated and sustained by social values and the ideal that economic, social, and environmental sustainability are integrally related.

Nancy's educational and experiential background helped prepare her for her non-partisan elected position. She has applied assessment and communication skills from nursing in a variety of settings. After her nursing degree, she earned a certificate in Archaeology (Oregon State, 1979), a BA in psychology (BSU, 1979) and an MS in Environmental Science (UI, 2002). Her nursing experience included neuro-surgical (1977-79, St. Alphonsus Hospital); private duty home care and hospice (1979-80); internal medicine practice (1981-90, Pullman WA, with wide-ranging duties including performing electro-cardiograms, sigmoidoscopies, treadmill testing and diabetic education); family practice (Moscow, 1990-92); and office nursing in obstetrics-gynecology (Moscow and Pullman, 1992-98). In those positions, she interacted with a wide array of professionals, which in turn has been useful in her mayor position. Her extensive nursing skills were utilized during the fifteen months (Aug., 1998 to Oct, 1999) when she and her brother shared end-of-life care for their mother in her Boise home; their mother was completely dependent with a neurologic condition and could not see, speak, eat or walk.

In her transition from that experience, she enrolled in a class, Issues for the Emerging Landscape, which invigorated and motivated her to complete a Master of Science in Environmental Science, University of Idaho, 2002. Harkening to her training in neurosurgical nursing and psychology, her thesis involved perception, learning theory and functional magnetic resonance imaging. Even though she did not view herself as being politically engaged beyond voting and writing letters to the editor, she accepted an invitation to run for an unfinished term, 2002-2004, on the City Council. She found a love for this work, which led her through two successful elections for mayor.

Nancy cites her wide ranging, varied clinical student nursing experiences at Boise State University for giving her the knowledge and skills to comfortably address many issues, including “aging in place,” in an integrative manner. She indicates being awestruck at the nursing program’s current clinical simulation laboratory. She has observed how nursing responsibilities, career choices and respect for nurses have increased since her graduation. She is “excited to see the changes in nursing” and is pleased that nurses have a state-wide closeness in their communications.

From a personal perspective, Nancy reflects a high value on health through activities including biking. She once qualified to run the Boston Marathon. She and her husband co-own Veterinary Ophthalmic Specialties with worldwide sales of products related to animal eyes. In summary, Nancy’s wide ranging background amply undergirds her enthusiasm for the OneHealth initiative, conceived by the American Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and an international coalition of environmental scientists and others, who believe that

***there cannot be human health without animal health and  
there cannot be either without ecological health.***

02/14/2011 VG