

Jennifer Witten

Jennifer Witten is a Vice President for the Maryland Hospital Association. In that capacity, Jennifer leads the association's efforts on behalf of Maryland's hospitals before the state, federal and regulatory bodies. She provides advocacy guidance to leadership that aligns with the association strategic goals.

Her path to the nation's capital began more than a decade earlier in New Mexico while serving as an EMT. She observed how fragmented the healthcare system was for patients seeking care.

"I saw the importance of being an advocate to influence policy changes," said Jennifer. "At the same time, I began pursuing my business degree at NAU. This added experience led to many more opportunities to advocate at the local and state levels."

As her career began to pivot from hands on care to influencing healthcare policy, she was presented with a personal challenge that called on her policy-influencing skills.

"My grandfather had a stroke and there were only a couple hospitals that were designated stroke centers," explained Jennifer. "There was a huge gap in the availability of specialists and hospitals for stroke patients."

Jennifer was asked come to the state capitol and share her experience and advocate to enhance options for stroke care.

As her career focus was changing and evolving, she secured her bachelor's degree from National American University in Albuquerque in 2004, and continued on to receive two master's degrees from another university. Her experiences and education led her to working for several healthcare policy advocacy associations, ultimately as a lobbyist, on issues that she remains passionate about. She has also served as a private consultant, owning and operating her own business focusing on clients in the non-profit and healthcare industries.

"My NAU degree was the foundation of my professional development. It helped me be a better communicator about the issues that matter to me, and I learned how to use my experiences to secure some great opportunities, personally and professionally, including expanding my career as a lobbyist. I'm grateful to the university."



Watch Jennifer's webinar, "[Advocacy 101: Leveraging Your Voice and Getting to Yes.](#)"

Read her presentation [here.](#)