

Pilar De La Cruz Samouljian, MSN, RN has been a registered nurse since 1968 and received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in nursing from California State University, Dominguez Hills thru the Statewide Nursing Program. She began her professional career as an RN at Fresno Community Hospital in 1969 moving quickly up the administrative ladder serving as a nursing supervisor and manager of the critical care units and emergency room. In addition, she became a Vice-President overseeing the long-term care facilities of the corporation, including the DeWitt Subacute Unit and the education department. In 2003, she was appointed Chief Nurse Executive of the newly opened Fresno Heart Hospital and retired from the hospital environment in 2006.

Her love of academia led her to accept a position as a clinical faculty member for the LVN to RN nursing program at San Joaquin Valley College and eventually serving as the Director/Dean of the School of Nursing at United States University in Chula Vista, CA from 2011-2013. Prior to accepting this position, she served as the Diversity Director for the California Institute for Nursing and Healthcare with the goal of increasing the number of minority nurses in California. In addition, she also worked on several projects for the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California. In 2013 she returned back to the central valley and accepted a part-time position with California State University, Fresno serving as the Director of the Central California Center for Nursing Excellence. In this role she worked with the School of Nursing to obtain grants and was successful in bringing in over \$2,00,000 for specific projects. Upon retiring from Fresno State, she was offered a position with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno to work on a grant to reach out to the Hispanic population on healthcare issues. Working with the School of Nursing at Fresno State, she was able to bring the Mobile Health Unit out to the rural areas to do health screenings for the underserved.

In 2015, she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, Jr. to serve on the California Board of Registered Nursing for a 4- year term. She has been recognized for her dedication to healthcare and has been the recipient of numerous local, state and national awards. She is the author of the book, *"But I Want to be a Nurse"* which is in the final stages of publication.