

# AARC Strategic Direction 2026–2028

## Vision

The AARC will be the leading organization to advance the profession of respiratory care worldwide.



## ENGAGE

Maximize membership value and engagement

### OBJECTIVES

**1A.** Foster leadership skills at the chartered affiliates level through tools, resources, and educational offerings.

**1B.** Effectively communicate the AARC message.

**1C.** Optimize, develop, and implement value-added benefits, programs and resources with relevance to diverse needs of members and which incentivize long-term membership.

**1D.** Cultivate a sense of belonging for all members.



## ELEVATE

Expand influence and impact of RTs

### OBJECTIVES

**2A.** Showcase professional impact through patient experiences and quantified data.

**2B.** Develop tools and resources to support front-line leaders.

**2C.** Continue producing evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines based on the needs and trends of the profession.

**2D.** Highlight varied career paths in the profession.

**2E.** Examine and optimize leadership structure for AARC publications.

**2F.** Promote value of Apex Designation recognition and participation.

**2G.** Identify key research priorities and advance respiratory therapists as researchers.



## ADVOCATE

Advance health policy and legislation

### OBJECTIVES

**3A.** Enhance partnerships and professional collaborations to advance health policy strategy.

**3B.** Partner with federal agencies to monitor and address RT workforce shortages.

**3C.** Strengthen AARC and VHA partnership to expand work within the Veteran population.

**3D.** Support state legislative adoption of APRT licensure and program expansion.

**3E.** Continue developing federal and state legislative policies that advance respiratory therapy initiatives, such as compact licensure, RRT to entry, and the SOAR Act.

**3F.** Champion high-quality respiratory care through recognition programs, potentially including accreditation programs.



## EDUCATE

Develop and advance the RT workforce

### OBJECTIVES

**4A.** Advance RT education and research through scholarships and grants.

**4B.** Develop micro credentials to expand career opportunities and enhancement.

**4C.** Enhance AARC professional development programs, such as leadership, research, and quality assurance and improvement programs.

**4D.** Enhance tools and resources to support faculty and clinical educators.

**4E.** Recruit and support RT students and graduates through professional development and leadership opportunities (e.g., NextGen RT Network, volunteer opportunities, career path resources, etc.).

**4F.** Continue producing high-level educational content relevant to the RT professional's needs and career journey.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES >



Increase membership by at least 3% while maintaining 90% retention.



Increase output from research grants and awards.



Increase RT advocacy engagement by at least 10%.



Drive policy changes to improve reimbursement and expand patient access to respiratory care.



Increase the number of graduates from accredited RT programs by at least 3%.



Increase the number of organizations with an Apex designation by at least 25%.