
Symposium & Awards 2026

Celebrating Nursing Excellence, Leadership & Innovation

Rosen Plaza Hotel · 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819

Faith · Healthcare · Education · Youth · Community

DAY 1 · THURSDAY

October 22, 2026

TIME	SESSION
3:00 – 5:00 PM	Registration & Check-In
5:00 – 7:00 PM	Exhibit Hall
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Welcome Reception / Meet & Greet
8:00 – 8:10 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Suzette McNeil, DNP, MS, RN, NEA-BC, VHA-CM Associate Director, Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer / Nurse Executive, Orlando VA Healthcare System Orlando VA Healthcare System / U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
8:15 – 10:30 PM	Nurses Got Talent

DAY 2 • FRIDAY

October 23, 2026

TIME

SESSION

9:00 – 10:00 AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ernest J. Grant, PhD, DSc(h), RN, FADLN, FAAN

Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Duke University School of Nursing · Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Immediate Past President of the American Nurses Association

10:00 – 12:00 PM

Breakout Sessions (Concurrent Tracks)

Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking and the Nurse's Duty to Respond (Track 1-Hybrid Session)

Sponsored by Global Innovative Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Marie O. Etienne, DNP, APRN, FNP, PNP, D. Min. (h.c.), PLNC, FADLN

Founder, President & CEO of GIF
TNM Editor-in-Chief & COO

From Burnout to Balance: Reclaiming Your Energy and Purpose (Track 5)

Sponsored by Dufleur Health Services

Myrnelle Fleur-Aime, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC

President, HANA of Florida, Inc.
TNM Advisory Board Member

From Global Nurse to U.S. RN: Your Journey Starts Here (Track 2)

Sponsored by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) · Virtual Webinar

Erica N. Fuller

Director of Regulatory and Workforce Services at Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE)

Power Hour: Resume & Interview (Track 2)

Sponsored by ENOM Healthcare Consultant & Blossom RN Consulting

Shantrice Mone Winston, MSN-Ed, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, CCRN-K, LSSGB

TNM Lead Ambassador / TNM Advisory Board Member

Cassandre Milien, DNP, MSN, AGPCNP
TNM Ambassador

12:30 – 2:30 PM

Nursing Leadership Brunch & Executive Leadership Panel

*Building the Future of Nursing: Academic and Practice Leaders
United to Address the Nursing Faculty Shortage*

Hudson P. Santos Jr., PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean of the University of Miami (UM)
School of Nursing and Health Studies, the
inaugural Dolores J. Chambreau, RN
Endowed Chair, and Director of the
School's PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center
for Nursing Human Resources
Development and Patient Safety

Renée K. Herzing
President of Herzing University

**Ernest J. Grant, PhD, DSc(h), RN, FADLN,
FAAN**
Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
and Belonging
Duke University School of Nursing · Office
of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and
Belonging
Immediate Past President of the American
Nurses Association

**Shakira Henderson, PhD, DNP, MS, MPH,
EMBA, IBCLC, RNC-NIC**
Dean, College of Nursing – Chief
Administrative Officer, UF College of
Nursing
Associate Vice President for Nursing
Education, Practice, and Research –
System Chief Nurse Executive, UF Health
University of Florida

**Nicole Johnson, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC,
CPEN**
Chief Nursing and Patient Operations
Officer, Central Florida

MODERATOR
Joy King, DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, FAIHM
President, Georgia Nurses Association
(GNA)

2:30 – 4:30 PM

Exhibit Hall

3:30 – 6:30 PM

Breakout Sessions (Concurrent Tracks)

NCLEX Mastery: Strategies for Success

Dr. Guillermo R. Valdés

DNP, MSN-HCS, PGC-Ned., MED-SURG
BC, Sigma Virginia Henderson Fellow

From Global Nurse to U.S. RN: Your Journey Starts Here (Track 2)

Sponsored by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) · Virtual Webinar

Erica N. Fuller

Director of Regulatory and Workforce
Services at Educational Credential
Evaluators (ECE)

Prescribing with Confidence: Advanced Pharmacology Updates for the Modern NP (Track 1)

Sponsored by Hope Clinic & Wellness

Carlfred Charlot, MD, MBA, PA

Co-Founder, The Nurses Magazine

Transition to Practice: From Student to Confident Nurse

Sponsored by Elite CEU

**Dr. Luis E. Caso Vega, DNP, MBA, RN,
CEN, CGNC, CPEN, NE-BC, TCRN, FADLN,
FSIEN**

Manager, Nursing Education
Healthcare Professions Education
Academic and Product Innovation
Risepoint

7:30 – 8:00 PM

Orlando Goes Red for Nursing

Lake Eola Fountain Illuminated Red in Recognition of The Nurses Magazine®
Symposium & Awards

Friday Breakout Sessions

Concurrent Learning Tracks

TRACK 1 · CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

NCLEX Mastery: Strategies for Success — Proven study methods, test-taking strategies, and resources to help future nurses pass with confidence.

Prescribing with Confidence: Advanced Pharmacology Updates for the Modern NP — Current updates in pharmacology, safe prescribing, medication interactions, chronic disease management, and emerging therapies.

Behind Closed Doors: The Nurse's Role in Domestic Violence Identification & Intervention — Trauma-informed care, warning signs, screening tools, documentation, and community referral pathways.

TRACK 2 · CAREER ADVANCEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Power Hour: Resume & Interview — Craft a winning nursing resume and sharpen interview skills through mock interview simulations.

From Global Nurse to U.S. RN: Your Journey Starts Here — A roadmap for international nurses transitioning to the U.S. healthcare system.

TRACK 3 · WELLNESS & RESILIENCE

From Burnout to Balance: Reclaiming Your Energy and Purpose — Identify signs of burnout and learn practical tools for resilience, recovery, and renewed purpose.

TRACK 4 · NURSING STUDENTS & NEW GRADUATES

Transition to Practice: From Student to Confident Nurse — Managing your first 90 days, clinical confidence, and avoiding common new-graduate mistakes.

TRACK 5 · YOUTH TRACK — K-12 FUTURE NURSES INITIATIVE™ (ELEMENTARY · MIDDLE · HIGH SCHOOL)

Meet the Nurse: Real Stories, Real Impact — Inspiration through storytelling, a day in the life of a nurse, specialties, and the science behind saving lives.

9:00 AM

High School students

11:00 AM

Elementary students (5th grade)

1:00 PM

Middle School students

DAY 3 • SATURDAY

October 24, 2026

TIME	SESSION
8:00 – 9:00 AM	The Power Hour with Lisa Campbell, MHA, BSN, NC-BC Director of Clinical Leadership Programs at AdventHealth's Leadership Institute <i>Purpose. Power. Possibility.</i>
9:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakout Sessions (Concurrent Tracks) Nursing in the Digital Age: Telehealth, Technology & Digital Health Systems (Track 1) Bianca Evariste, BSN, MBA, RN Vice President of Clinical Operations, HealthyMD From Bedside to Classroom: Becoming a Nurse Educator (Track 1) <i>Sponsored by Nursing Action Coalition of Florida, Inc.</i> Jan Adams, DNP, MPA, RN Executive Director, Nursing Action Coalition of Florida, Inc. From Dissertation to Bestseller: Transforming Your Dissertation, Doctoral Project, or Scholarly Work into a Published Book (Track 3) <i>Sponsored by C & M Educational Services, LLC</i> Charles R. Needham, DBA, MBA TNM Proofreader Editor Maria Needham, DBA, MBA Nurse Entrepreneurs: Turning Your Passion into a For-Profit and Non-Profit Business (Track 2) <i>Sponsored by Brilliant Healthcare Training and Consulting, Inc.</i> Eva M. Francis, DNP, MSN, CCRN, NEA-BC, IHC President & CEO of Brilliant Healthcare Training and Consulting Behind Closed Doors: The Nurse's Role in Domestic Violence Identification & Intervention (Track 1-Hybrid Session) <i>Sponsored by Wings to Freedom Foundation, Inc.</i> Martha I. Wydra, DNP-AGACNP Founder & President of Wings to Freedom Foundation From Research to Readership: How to Publish from A to Z (Track 3) <i>Sponsored by Sorhaya Writes & Sorhaya Health Writing Services, LLC</i> Sorhaya Zamora, MSN, APRN, PMHNP, Doctorate Candidate TNM Associate Editor

Saturday Breakout Sessions

Concurrent Learning Tracks

TRACK 1 · CAREER ADVANCEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Transition to Practice: From Student to Confident Nurse — Managing your first 90 days, clinical confidence, and avoiding common new-graduate mistakes.

From Bedside to Classroom: Becoming a Nurse Educator — The journey from bedside care to nurse educator: education, mentorship, and leadership pathways.

Nursing in the Digital Age: Telehealth, Technology & Digital Health Systems — How telehealth and digital health systems are transforming nursing care and patient outcomes.

Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking and the Nurse's Duty to Respond — Identify red flags, respond safely, document concerns, and collaborate with law enforcement and advocacy services.

TRACK 2 · CAREER ADVANCEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nurse Entrepreneurs: Turning Your Passion into a For-Profit and Non-Profit Business — Launch, market, and grow your own nursing-based business or consulting practice.

From Global Nurse to U.S. RN: Your Journey Starts Here — A roadmap for international nurses transitioning to the U.S. healthcare system.

TRACK 3 · SCHOLARSHIP & PUBLISHING

From Research to Readership: How to Publish from A to Z — A step-by-step guide to publishing your work in nursing journals.

From Dissertation to Bestseller: Turning Your DNP Project into a Book — Adapt your scholarly project into a publishable book that reaches beyond academia.

TRACK 4 · NURSING STUDENTS & NEW GRADUATES

Surviving & Thriving Your First Year — Emotional resilience, burnout prevention, imposter syndrome, workplace culture, and financial literacy.



AN EVENING OF RECOGNITION

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Cocktail Hour & Red Carpet

Photo Opportunity

7:30 – 11:00 PM

Awards Ceremony

NOTE: This agenda is subject to change. We will provide final session details and room assignments on-site.

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Elevating Nurses · Advancing Leadership · Transforming Healthcare