

# 2026 Nurse Educators Summit; Transforming Nursing Education Through Shared Vision, Shared Governance, and Collective Impact

## Event Agenda

Friday, September 11, 2026 at 8:00am CT - 12:30pm CT

**i** All times listed in Central Time (US & Canada).

### Friday, September 11, 2026

8:00am - 8:30am

**Registration/Continental Breakfast**

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8:30am - 10:00am

#### **The Alignment Imperative: Transforming Nursing Education Through Shared Vision, Shared Governance, and Collective Impact**

Tiffany L Simmons M.Ed, RN, PhD(c)

Calls to transform nursing education have intensified in response to workforce shortages, practice readiness concerns, technological disruption, evolving healthcare needs, and growing expectations for equitable student outcomes. National efforts to advance nursing education continue to emphasize stronger academic-practice partnerships, competency-based education, workforce readiness, and innovative approaches to preparing the future nursing workforce. Yet sustainable transformation remains challenging when the stakeholders responsible for educational outcomes operate in fragmented systems rather than as aligned partners.

This interactive session introduces The Alignment Imperative, a systems-based conceptual framework for examining how alignment across education, practice, policy, technology, and community sectors can accelerate meaningful transformation in nursing education. Participants will explore how fragmentation contributes to persistent challenges including clinical placement shortages, faculty-practice disconnects, variable transition-to-practice outcomes, inequitable access to opportunities, and the slow adoption of innovation.

Through the use of the Alignment Continuum and Alignment Triangle conceptual model attendees will engage in guided reflection, systems mapping, and collaborative problem-solving activities designed to assess current partnerships and identify opportunities for stronger alignment. Emphasis will be placed on creating shared vision, shared governance, and shared outcomes that support workforce readiness, educational excellence, and long-term professional impact.

This session challenges participants to consider alignment as a foundational condition for transforming nursing education and advancing the future of the nursing profession. Participants will leave with practical strategies to strengthen academic-practice partnerships, improve stakeholder engagement, and advance collective impact across nursing education environments. The future of nursing education depends not only on what we innovate, but on how effectively we align the systems responsible for preparing the next generation of nurses. It will require alignment.

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10:00am - 10:15am

**Break**

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10:15am - 11:00am

### **Competency-Based Education-Get on Board!**

Pamela A. Di Vito-Thomas, PhD, RN

This presentation provides an overview of Competency-Based Education, or CBE, and its role in nursing education. Participants will explore the key components of CBE, including clearly defined competencies, measurable outcomes, learner-centered progression, and assessment of performance.

The session will discuss the primary goals of CBE, with a focus on preparing nurses who demonstrate knowledge, clinical judgment, professional behaviors, and practical skills needed for safe and effective practice.

Participants will also examine how nursing education curriculum aligns with broader educational and social mandates. This includes the responsibility of nursing programs to prepare graduates who meet workforce needs, respond to changing healthcare demands, and serve diverse communities with competence, compassion, and accountability.

Objectives:

1. Describe definition/goal of competency-based education.
  2. Discuss components of competency-based education.
  3. Relate core competency models for professional nursing education & measurable outcomes.
  4. Recognize learner-centered progression and performance assessment.
  5. Practice an active-based research learning exercise.
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11:00am - 11:45am

### **Building Advocacy Skills, Confidence, and Professional Voice across the Nursing Profession**

Arlene Ryndak MPH, BSN, RN

Advocacy is a core professional responsibility of every nurse, regardless of specialty, practice setting, or role. Yet many nurses enter practice feeling unprepared to influence decisions that affect patient care, population health, healthcare systems, and the nursing profession itself. While nurses possess firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing individuals, families, and communities, they often lack formal preparation in advocacy skills, policy engagement, strategic communication, and professional influence.

This presentation introduces the APHN Public Health Policy Advocacy Toolkit as a practical and adaptable resource that can be used across nursing education and professional development settings to build advocacy knowledge, skills, confidence, and professional voice. Developed by the Association of Public Health Nurses Public Health Policy Committee, the Toolkit provides an accessible framework for understanding advocacy, navigating policy processes, communicating with decision-makers, building coalitions, addressing misinformation, and translating nursing expertise into action.

Participants will explore how advocacy can be integrated throughout nursing curricula and professional formation, helping students and practicing nurses move beyond recognizing problems to becoming effective agents of change. The session will introduce the Advocacy Confidence Ladder, a developmental framework that supports progressive growth from awareness and concern to advocacy leadership and policy influence. Examples and practical strategies will demonstrate how nurse educators can incorporate advocacy competencies into classroom learning, clinical experiences, simulation activities, leadership courses, and professional development programs.

Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of advocacy as an essential nursing competency, familiarity with the Advocacy Toolkit as a teaching resource, and actionable ideas for preparing nurses to confidently influence practice, policy, systems, and health outcomes throughout their careers.

Objectives:

1. Describe the purpose, key components, and practical applications of the APHN Public Health Policy Advocacy Toolkit as a resource for developing advocacy competencies in nurses.
  2. Explain why advocacy, policy engagement, and professional voice are essential competencies for nurses across all specialties, roles, and practice settings.
  3. Apply the Advocacy Confidence Ladder framework to support progressive development of advocacy skills, confidence, and leadership among nursing students and practicing nurses.
  4. Identify at least three strategies for integrating advocacy skill development into nursing curricula, clinical learning experiences, and professional development programs.
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11:45am - 12:30pm

### **Partnerships in Community Health**

Michelle Henry MSN, RN