

NURSETRUST 2026 SUMMIT SPEAKERS



Jeannine Acantilado, MSN, MBA, RN is an accomplished executive coach and leadership strategist with more than three decades of experience advancing healthcare leaders through personalized coaching, emotional intelligence development, and VIA Character Strengths–based facilitation. As the CEO of Elan Consulting Services, she partners with executives, physicians, and interdisciplinary teams to strengthen leadership presence, accelerate culture transformation, and elevate team performance. Jeannine is known for her deep expertise in emotional agility, conflict competence, and strengths-driven leadership, designing immersive retreats, executive programs, and coaching engagements that cultivate resilience, authenticity, and high-impact decision-making. Her work spans major health systems—including Intermountain Health, Providence, Common Spirit, and MultiCare—where she consistently helps leaders thrive in complexity and lead with purpose, clarity, and courage.



June Altaras, MN, NEA-BC, RN, is a transformational healthcare executive recognized for strengthening teams and building resilient organizational cultures through deep character-strength facilitation and emotional intelligence practices. Throughout her leadership roles she embedded emotional intelligence and patterning work into quality, safety, and culture-transformation initiatives, driving measurable improvements in trust, engagement, resilience, and quality and safety patient outcomes. June’s approach mobilizes the inherent strengths of individuals and teams to elevate collaboration, restore connection, and create high-reliability environments where people thrive. Her legacy across Multicare, Providence-Swedish, and Swedish Health includes dramatic gains in safety, cultural perception, employee retention, and organizational performance, all grounded in her belief that character-driven leadership is the catalyst for lasting cultural change.



Rhonda Anderson, DNSc(h), MPA, BS, RN, FAAN, LFACHE, FACHT is currently a healthcare consultant for RMA Consulting of Arizona and a consultant/surveyor for Global Healthcare Accreditation. From 2009 to 2016, she was Chief Executive Officer of Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa, Arizona, a Banner Health hospital. Prior to that she held CEO, COO and CNO positions for healthcare organizations in the East Coast, Midwest and Southwest. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Penny L. Beattie, DNP, MBA, RN, BC-NE is a seasoned nurse with extensive nursing leadership experience spanning the last 30 years of her 46-year nursing career. Her clinical career consisted of Med/Surg, Pediatrics, ICU, ED, and Flight Nursing. She served our country for ten years in the United States Air Force reserves and was on Active Duty for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Her leadership roles have included CNO, ACNO, Service Line Administrator, and Emergency Flight Services Director. Penny continues her passion for exceptional patient care by teaching nursing leadership as an Assistant Professor and Clinical Educator at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Nursing Administrative Leader program. She earned her DNP from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and her MBA from the Anderson School of Business at the University of New Mexico.



Jolyana Begay-Kroupa is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, originally from the community of Fort Defiance, Arizona. She currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Phoenix Indian Center, the oldest Indian center in the United States, where she leads efforts dedicated to serving and uplifting urban American Indian relatives through culturally grounded social services, advocacy, and community-centered programming.

Jolyana holds a Master of Arts in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education with an emphasis in American Indian Educational Policy. She is also a 2025 Virginia G. Piper Fellow, a highly prestigious fellowship recognizing outstanding leaders making transformative contributions to Arizona communities. Her work is rooted in a deep commitment to ensuring that urban Native communities have continued access to culturally responsive services that honor Indigenous identity, community-defined priorities, and collective self-determination.

She honorably served as the 50th Miss Navajo Nation (2001–2002) and remains a strong advocate for Indigenous language and cultural revitalization. Jolyana currently teaches Navajo language courses at Arizona State University and has also taught at Stanford University, Harvard University, and Yale University. Across all aspects of her leadership, scholarship, and advocacy, she is committed to ensuring Indigenous perspectives are meaningfully interwoven into policy, education, and community systems.



Sue Birch, MBA, BSN, RN, is President and CEO of The Simmons Foundation, which supports nonprofits working to strengthen women, youth, and families.

She previously served as director of the Washington State Health Care Authority, where she led major access innovations including the nation's first public option, Cascade Care, and continuous Medicaid eligibility for 0 to 6 year olds. During Birch's tenure, WA Cares, the country's first publicly funded long-term care insurance program was launched. WA was also known for its early adoption of value based payment models.

A nurse by background, Sue is passionate about advancing population health and addressing the social factors that shape individual well-being and build accountable communities of health.



Dr. Selina Bliss, LD-1, is in the middle of her second 2-year term in the Arizona State House of Representatives, serving Legislative District 1, which covers Yavapai County. She currently serves as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and is a member of the Judiciary and Transportation Committees.

She has been proud to call Prescott home since 1971 and is engaged in a variety of political and civic organizations. Dr. Bliss earned a PhD in Nursing Education, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After teaching at Yavapai College as a nurse educator for 26 years, she was awarded Faculty Emeritus. While teaching, to stay current in the rapidly evolving science of nursing, she continued to work as a staff nurse at Yavapai Regional Medical Center for 36 years. She is currently in her 18th year of service as a Medical Unit Leader for the Southwest Area Incident Management Team 1 to support wildland firefighters.

Dr. Bliss prides herself on her deep respect for the rich history of Legislative District 1 and of Arizona, and is honored to serve!



With over 37 years of dedicated service to the nursing profession, **Susan Corbridge, PhD, APRN, FAANP, FCCP, FNAP, FAAN**, has driven quality, accessibility, and cost effectiveness in health care for vulnerable and underserved populations, and has led changes in nursing policy and practice on multiple levels and in various venues. Dr. Corbridge has been recognized for her impactful work by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the American Academy of Nursing, among others. She is a nationally recognized expert in nurse practitioner education, pulmonary nursing and advanced practice and is a Professor Emerita at the University of Illinois Chicago, where she served in many roles, including Executive Associate Dean. Now leading national efforts for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in Washington DC, Dr. Corbridge leads national efforts to implement the Essentials and transition nursing education curricula to a competency-based model, while also directing initiatives in academic-practice partnerships, education policy, and interprofessional collaboration.



Tara Cortes, PhD RN FAAN is recognized for her distinguished career spanning executive leadership, nursing education, research and practice. She is currently the Executive Director Professor at the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Dr. Cortes has provided significant contributions to advance the health of older adults, particularly those who are frail and vulnerable with limited access or voice in the health care system. Importantly, she has developed collaborative interprofessional models of practice and education in traditional as well as nontraditional settings to enhance the capacity of the workforce to provide age-friendly quality care for the aging population



Barbara I. Damron, PhD, LHD (h), RN, FAAN is a Professor Emerita at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center College of Nursing (CON), where she is also serving as a Visiting Professor. Dr. Damron is currently writing a comprehensive reference and policy book providing a detailed overview of higher education governance and funding, and chronicling the history of higher education in the State of New Mexico.



Kathy Davis, DNP, RN, MBA, CPHQ proudly serves as the national Board President of NurseTRUST guiding the achievement of mission; to inspire and enable a vibrant, relationship focused networks that develops nurse leaders, amplifies voices and transforms health. For over 30 years Kathy has served various senior executive roles in health systems focused on leadership, nursing, quality and safety and clinical integration. Kathy's consulting practice focused on patient safety, building high reliability organizational systems and cultures and executive coaching. Transitioning to academia, Kathy joined the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in 2025 focused on clinical network development. Proud to be a Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow Alumni, a career defining experience for which Kathy expresses her appreciation and gratitude, and desire to advance what is now NurseTRUST. Kathy also serves on several professional advisory boards related to post-acute care and academic organizations, and for many years as peer reviewer for JONA.



Cole Edmonson, DNP, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, FAAN, FNAP, FAONL has a career spanning three decades with roles including clinical nurse, supervisor, manager, director, associate chief nursing office, chief nursing officer and chief clinical officer and his current role chief executive officer for the Nurses on Boards Coalition. He is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, National Academy of Practice, American Organization for Nursing Leadership and the American College of Healthcare Executives; and Nursing Executive Advanced-Board Certified by ANCC. He is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow Alum. He completed his BSN and MSN at Oklahoma University College of Nursing and his Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Texas Christian University.



Susan Hassmiller, R.N., FAAN, Ph.D. is the Senior Adviser for Nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She was the Senior Scholar-In-Residence and Senior Adviser to the President at the National Academy of Medicine from January 2019 through August 2021. In this role, she served as a key member of the leadership team for the report, *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity*, released in May 2021. In partnership with AARP, she directs the Foundation’s *Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action*. This national initiative is transforming health and health care through nursing, and building a healthier America.

Hassmiller has worked in public health settings at the local, state and national levels, including the Health Resources and Services Administration. She taught community health nursing at the University of Nebraska and George Mason University.



Barbara Hatcher, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN is an experienced public health professional and nurse who is currently President & CEO of Hatcher-DuBois-Odrick Group, LLC, a public health consulting firm in the District of Columbia. Her work focuses on strategic planning, organizational effectiveness, social media and entrepreneurship for nonprofit and non-governmental organizations. This work expands the globe with efforts in the United States, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. She is also Co-Director, of a DOH funded initiative—Instant Recess®: Let’s Move DC with and serves as an adjunct professor at George Mason University teaching doctoral level courses in the College Of Nursing And Health Science.

She is an alumna of the prestigious leadership programs to include the Kellogg Foundation Community Leaders ; Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows and the American Nurses’ Association Ethnic Minority Nurse Fellow programs.

Hatcher was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing and honored by the National Black Nurses’ Association as a recipient of its 2008 Trailblazers Award. In 2009 she was inducted into the Waterbury (CT) Hall of Fame and recognized by her School of Nursing at the University of Connecticut with the Josephine Dolan Award for career excellence. She was also featured in the leading periodical *Nurse Executive* and more recently inducted into the DC Hall of Fame.



Lauren Inouye, MPP, RN is the Chief Advancement Officer at American Academy of Nursing.



Dr. Wanda Montalvo, PhD, RN, FAAN is an executive nurse leader who is an avid public and community health advocate, committed to advancing solutions that decrease health disparities and inequities of care delivery. A keen collaborator able to bridge and connect partnerships at the local, state, and federal level, including academia, philanthropy, and community-based organizations.

As a Senior Fellow for Public Health Integration, and Innovation at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), Dr. Montalvo informs the design of federal projects that aim to advance evidence-based solutions to improve care access in underserved communities in partnership with health centers, primary care associations and health center-controlled networks.



Adrianna Nava, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN is an Applied Research Scientist at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), where she serves as the scientific lead for the Primary Care and Prevention portfolio that focuses on measurement concepts related to wellness, immunizations, cancer prevention, primary care delivery and social drivers of health. She works across organizational teams to integrate HEDIS® measures into population health standards, research concepts, and policy recommendations.

She is the Immediate Past President (2021–2024) of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), where she championed the advancement of nurses in leadership, research, and policy to improve Latino health. Under her leadership, NAHN reached its highest membership in history, and in 2023, she launched the organization’s first annual Hispanic Health Policy Summit in Washington, DC. Previously, Dr. Nava served as Chief Nurse of Quality and Systems Improvement at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL, where she led a team of quality, patient safety, and infection control experts to drive meaningful clinical improvement activities that enhanced outcomes for Veterans.



Melissa Pritchard is the award-winning author of twelve books, including her most recent, widely praised novel, *Flight of the Wild Swan*, a fictionalized biography of Florence Nightingale. She has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Flannery O'Connor Award, the Carl Sandburg Literary Award, a Carson McCullers Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. A 2025 Georgia Author of the Year finalist, her short story collection, *The Carnation Milk Palace*, will be published in January 2027. Professor Emerita of English and Women's Studies at Arizona State University, Melissa lives in Columbus, Georgia.



Vivian Torres-Suarez, MBA, BSN, RN, Torre Health Care Consulting LLC, President, and Owner is an experienced and influential healthcare executive that has dedicated her career to the operations and management of several home and community-based health care organizations such as home care agencies, managed care organizations, health care centers for adults and children. She was instrumental in the development of the first pediatric long term home care program for children in NYS.

Served as a clinician, an advocate, an innovator, a manager, and a top-level executive in managed care, care management, population health, quality management for home care and community-based organizations.

Catalyst for change with a proven ability to drive performance improvement. Expert in change management, improving organizational operations and the development of high performing teams. Developed the Mentorship Academy Nationwide and for local chapters for the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) and uses the model of mentoring and coaching with staff. Serves as a past president for the NAHN-NY Chapter and serves on several committees for the NAHN-NY Chapter.

Serves on several boards that support nursing, her church and her community and is a RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow and a New York Academy of Medicine Fellow. Ms. Torres-Suarez earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Wagner College and master's in business administration from Dowling College.



Dr. Noelle Trinder, DNP, RN, is the Senior Director of Healthcare Careers at Banner Health, celebrating 20 years with the organization in 2024. She and her team oversee academic partnerships, workforce development, K-12 initiatives, international recruitment, and the New Graduate RN hiring across six states. With over 20 years of nursing experience, she played a key roles Banner Health in Progressive Care, Clinical Education, serving as interim Chief Nursing Officer at Banner Estrella Medical Center, and now a Senior leader in Human Resources. She has served on various boards and committees, including the AZ State Board of Nursing and is Vice Chair of the Maricopa County Workforce Development Board. Dr. Trinder lives in Waddell, Arizona, with her husband, their children (ages 20 and 16), and three fur children!



Greta Westwood, CBE, PhD, RN, CEO, Florence Nightingale Foundation has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Florence Nightingale Foundation (FNF) since September 2019. Under her leadership, the Foundation has grown from supporting a small number of nurses and midwives to reaching almost 250,000 individuals annually since 2022. Through its leadership development programmes, FNF equips nurses and midwives with the confidence, capability and influence to stay, lead, thrive and drive transformative change across health and care systems. Since 2023, FNF now supports global nursing and midwifery leaders.

A committed advocate for equity in leadership, FNF champions the leadership development of nurses and midwives from the Global Majority to gain fair access to senior roles across the sector. In recognition of her significant contributions to nursing and midwifery. She was awarded a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty The Queen in the 2021 New Year Honours.

Greta's career spans senior roles across healthcare, higher education and the charity sector, giving her deep insight into the complexities, challenges and opportunities across these environments. She is also a Non-Executive Director within a Group NHS organisation.

Greta is a Registered Nurse, Florence Nightingale Foundation Alumna (2012 Leadership Scholar), and has a PhD in Nursing (2010).