

NC Nursing Workforce Research Fall 2026 Conference

From Data to Action: Leveraging Local Research to Solve State Workforce Challenges

Friday, October 30, 2026
8:30 AM – 1:15 PM | Virtual (Half-Day)

Time	Session
8:25 – 8:30 AM	Welcome & Overview of NC Nursing Workforce Research Conference
8:30 – 9:15 AM	KEYNOTE Retention Study - Research and Strategies for Retaining Nurses Cheryl Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN
9:15 – 9:25 AM	Break 1 <i>Two posters will be featured (see attached the electronic posters table)</i>
9:25 – 9:50 AM	What If You Stopped Guessing? A Systematic, Evidence-Based Approach to Nurse Retention Sarah Ann Lackey, DNP, RN, ACC, CMC, CPQC
9:50 – 10:15 AM	Creating a Sustainable Recruitment Pathway for Pre-Health Professions Students Jennifer Alderman, PhD, RN, CNL, CNE, CHSE, NEA-BC Meg Zomorodi, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN
10:15 – 10:25 AM	Break 2 <i>Two posters will be featured (see attached the electronic posters table)</i>
10:25 – 11:40 AM	FEATURED SESSION How to Build the Business Case for Nursing: Measuring ROI and Financial Value Olga Yakusheva, PhD, MSE, FAAN
11:40 – 11:50 AM	Break 3 <i>Two posters will be featured (see attached the electronic posters table)</i>
11:50 – 12:15 PM	Leveraging Virtual Nursing into Scalable Solutions Russell Tremblay, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, CMSRN, CAVRN Jessica Yates, RN, DNP, NEA-BC Monica Valentine, MSN, RN, NEBC Emily Burns, MSN, RN-BC
12:15 – 1:05 PM	Evaluating the Impact of Academic–Practice Partnerships on New Graduate Nurse Recruitment and Workforce Outcomes in Community & Rural Health Systems Sara Clay, DNP, RN, CENP Katie Fulbright, DNP, NPD-BC, PCCN K. Brooke Kistler, PhD, RN, CNE
1:05 – 1:15 PM	Wrap-Up / Call to Action
1:15 PM	Adjourn

Electronic Posters (6)

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
Break 1 9:15 – 9:20 AM	Start Early, Never Stop: Training Across the Career Continuum to Build North Carolina's Academic Nurse Educator Workforce	Elizabeth A. Gazza, PhD, RN, LCCE, FACCE, ANEF
Break 1 9:20 – 9:25 AM	Staying on the Team: Public Health Nurse Retention and Mentorship	Christine E. Wanous, DrPH, MPH, BSN, RN, NCCPHN
Break 2 10:15 – 10:20 AM	Empowering Novice Nurses: Using a Specialty-Based Residency Program to Recruit, Train, and Retain Rehabilitation Nurses	Beverly Queen, MSN, RN, CRRN Emily Trotter, BSN, RN, CRRN
Break 2 10:20 – 10:25 AM	High School Today, Nurse Tomorrow: Building a Talent Pipeline	Joanne Matz, MEd Leslie Pressley, MSN, RN
Break 3 11:40 – 11:45 AM	Empower to Excel: Advancing Nursing Assistant Student Success	Elaine Clark, MSN, RN, R-IBCLC
Break 3 11:45 – 11:50 AM	From Pipelines to Purpose: Building Sustainable Healthcare Workforce Pathways in Rural Communities	Ja'Queta Gatling, MA, CWDP