

Ninfa M. Saunders, DHA, MBA, MSN, FACHE

Greensboro, Georgia | 478.832.1949 | ninsaunders@gmail.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ninfa-m-saunders-7ba9941/>

Public & Private Company Director ~ Strategic Advisor ~ National Thought Leader

Visionary Leadership → Breakthrough Strategies → Smart Growth

Winner of 25+ awards for exceptional leadership, including:

Modern Healthcare's "Top 25 Women Leaders in the US" and "Top 25 Minority Leaders in Healthcare"



Ninfa M. Saunders dedicated her career to defying the status quo. From her early days as a bedside nurse through her 25+ years as a C-suite healthcare executive, she maintained a laser focus on strategy, operations and people while optimizing patient care and enhancing the bottom line. Along the way, Ninfa did just that: she created innovative strategies that accelerated growth, strengthened operations and saved lives. As CEO of Navicent Health, Ninfa expanded the hospital's reach in Georgia through acquisitions, partnerships, new service lines and a strategic alliance with 30+ hospitals region-wide. In 2019, she orchestrated a merger with Charlotte-based

Atrium Health to position Navicent for future growth. Previously, as President of Virtua Health, she powered annual net revenue to \$1B while steering the organization to become the largest system in South Jersey and rank as #1 in the state for operating margin for seven consecutive years. Ninfa has served on the boards of national healthcare entities, and with her retirement from Navicent in 2020, she will now focus on board work for start-up and mature companies. Ninfa is passionate about leveraging her broad expertise to help corporate boards define "smart growth" strategies that are profitable and add shareholder value.

CAREER MILESTONES

- **Growth Strategy:** Defined and implemented multi-pronged strategy that ignited market share for Navicent and Virtua. Initiatives included physician practice, hospital and ambulatory center acquisitions; launch of new service lines, such as cancer treatment/research and diagnostics; and strategic partnerships.
- **Strategic Alliance:** Co-founded Stratus Healthcare—an alliance of 30+ urban and rural hospitals across Georgia—via a non-equity collaborative partnership that serves as a model for similar alliances nationwide. Formed a successful referral network and value-based contracting with payers.
- **Healthcare Innovation:** Launched Center for Disruption and Innovation at Navicent in partnership with AVIA, Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), Cox Healthcare and US Health of Care. Navicent became a testing site for new clinical products that benefit patients with chronic disease and that advance Population Health Management.
- **GE Enterprise Partnership:** Established and led partnership grounded on knowledge transfer of GE's Six Sigma processes, strengthening operational performance at both Virtua and Navicent. Organizations served as testing sites for new GE Healthcare equipment/products.



AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Financial Stewardship
Process Improvement
Quality Enhancement
Coaching & Mentorship
Leadership Development
Physician Partnership Models
Partnerships & Joint Ventures
Population Health Management

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP HISTORY

NAVICENT HEALTH

President & CEO
2012–2020
Macon, Georgia

STRATUS HEALTHCARE

Co-Founder
2013–2020
Macon, Georgia

VIRTUA HEALTH

President & COO
2003–2012
Southern New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S GEORGIA CANCER COALITION

Coalition Policy Staff
2002–2003
Atlanta, Georgia

EMORY DEKALB MEDICAL CENTER

COO
1993–2001
Decatur, Georgia

EARLY CAREER & CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Emory University Hospital—Atlanta, Georgia
 Director of Nursing Resources & Management Systems / Assistant Director of Nursing

Saint Barnabas Medical Center—Livingston, New Jersey
 Assistant Vice President of Nursing
 Director of Administrative Services and Staffing
 Director of Critical Care

Riley Memorial Hospital—Meridian, Mississippi
 ICU Staff Nurse

EDUCATION | CERTIFICATION | PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Medical University of South Carolina—Charleston, South Carolina
 Doctor of Health Administration

Emory University—Atlanta, Georgia
 Master of Business Administration

Rutgers University—Newark, New Jersey
 Master of Science, Nursing

Concordia College—Manila, Philippines
 Bachelor of Science, Nursing

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University of Michigan, College of Engineering Management—Ann Arbor, Michigan
 Six Sigma Black Belt, Certified

American College of Healthcare Executives | Fellow
Emory University, Nursing Doctoral Program | Professor

CURRENT BOARD SERVICE, PUBLIC & PRIVATE COMPANIES | NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- **Horizon BCBS NJ (2023–Present):** *A health insurance company. Personnel and compensation committee member.*
- **BioPorto (2023–Present):** *A Denmark-based, publicly traded in vitro diagnostics company. Audit committee chair.*
- **Quorum Health (2021–Present):** *A private equity-held company. Compensation committee member.*
- **T2 Biosystems (2020–Present):** *A publicly traded diagnostic laboratory company. Audit committee member.*
- **Medical Brain (2020–Present):** *A privately held AI/ML virtual platform start-up. Advise on investor relations and strategic partnerships.*
- **Avia (2021–Present):** *A privately held digital transformation company serving the healthcare sector. Advise company on its three Centers of Excellence: operational transformation, care transformation and consumerism.*
- **Laudio (2021–Present):** *A privately held tech start-up focused on employee engagement solutions. Advise on employee engagement solutions, application enhancement and product innovation.*

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- **United States Health of Care (2018–Present):** Member, Board of Directors and Founder's Council
- **Wesleyan College (2016–Present):** Board Member

RECENT AWARDS & HONORS

- **American Hospital Association "Board of Trustees Award,"** 2020
- **Environment Zone "Top 25 Women Who Reform Healthcare,"** 2020
- **Georgia Trend's "100 Most Influential Georgians,"** 2019 and 2020
- **CEO Connection's "Top 25 Most Influential Women in the Mid-Market,"** 2017 and 2018
- **Becker's Hospital Review's "130 Female Hospital and Health Systems Leaders to Know,"** 2013–2019