

Get Ready for the 2026 NWONL Annual Conference in Portland!

Leading Forward - Aligning Culture, Reimagining Workforce, Adapting Leadership



Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront

1401 Southwest Naito Parkway Portland, OR 97201

Pre-Conference

Wednesday, September 23, 3 - 5pm

Main Conference

Thursday, September 24, 7:30am - 5pm
Friday, September 25, 8am - noon

Fellow Leaders,

We are returning to Portland for 2026, this time in the fall to better meet the scheduling needs of our members. Portland Marriott Waterfront provides vibrant location that provides amenities well beyond a typical conference center. The NWONL Annual conference is both exclusive and limited, the conference will sell out, a waiting list will be provided but is not a guarantee.

Pre-Conference:

2026 Mentoring Lab - Focused Connections and Meaningful Insights plus NWONL Regional Councils Meetup and Social Hour

This interactive session and mentoring lab, facilitated by MentorLead, gives participants a dynamic, structured way to build meaningful professional connections. For those coming in the night before the main conference, this is a great opportunity to connect face to face with peer leaders!

Main Conference

1

Key Note - It Starts with You! Leading in a Human-Centered Way



Kay Kennedy NEA-BC, CPHQ, FAAN.

An internationally recognized nurse leader, educator, and author.

As healthcare grows more complex and unpredictable, leaders are being called to lead with greater clarity, intention, and humanity. This keynote introduces a human-centered approach to leadership that strengthens alignment, connection, and team culture.

2

Leading Forward with Caring Intelligence: How Nurse Leaders Can Use AI to Reduce Burden, Strengthen Culture, and Reimagine Workforce



Perry Gee PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN.

Enterprise Director of Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice, Nurse Scientist and Associate Professor of Research Intermountain Health and National Co-Director, Sigma Nurse Scientist Collaborative.

Nurse leaders are navigating an increasingly complex environment defined by workforce strain, operational pressure, and rapid technological change. At the same time, artificial intelligence is moving quickly into clinical workflows, documentation, and decision support. The leadership challenge is no longer whether AI will enter nursing practice, but whether nurse leaders will shape how it does. Participants will be introduced to a practical framework for evaluating innovation through value yield, enabling nurse leaders to align AI adoption with culture, workforce well-being, and high-quality care.

3 Leader Standard Work: Insights for more meaningful engagement with Gen Z

laudio INSIGHTS

Laudio Insights provides independent, evidence-based research and thought leadership perspectives based on the world's leading database of healthcare leader actions and outcomes.

2026 is the year Gen Z RNs reach a tipping point in health systems: by virtue of reaching 30% of the general population, Gen Z will go from adapting to workplace norms to redefining them. According to Malcolm Gladwell, author of the best selling book *The Tipping Point* (2024), when a minority group within a population reaches between 25% and 33%, the dynamic of the population changes to reflect their needs and values. 2026 is also the year when many health systems are likely to see the first major cohort of Gen Z RNs filling nurse manager roles.

4 The Era of Workforce Digitization: How to Lean in and Embrace the AI Revolution



Dr. Dani Bowie DNP, RN, NE-BC SVP.

Workforce AI, Qualivis,
Aya Healthcare

The AI revolution is upon us, reaching facets of our everyday lives. Healthcare is ripe for an overhaul, but the journey of transformation will require curious, courageous and informed healthcare leaders. Together we will learn best practices on how to prepare, start and support the journey of workforce digitization in their health systems.

5 Closing Key Note - The Chaos Whisperer's Guide to Healthcare Leadership



Megan Carter DNP, RN, NEA-BC.

President & Founder MC Health
Care Consulting, LLC 1.5

You are not meant to prove your worth through exhaustion. Dr. Megan Carter DNP, RN, NEA-BC is the President & Founder of MC Health Care Consulting LLC where she started the Chaos Whisperer movement in healthcare for leaders who are ready to stop leading from a place of exhaustion.



Find Full Event Information and Registration

on the **NWONL.org** website.



Contact **admin@nwonl.org** for
assistance or additional information.

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