

Preparing the Nursing Workforce We Need

Rethinking the Shared Responsibility of Closing the Readiness Gap

Friday, September 25, 2026 · 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

Preparing practice-ready nurses requires a shared commitment across academia and practice. Join national and regional leaders to explore how evolving academic-practice partnerships are strengthening readiness, transforming the transition to practice, and shaping the future nursing workforce.

People Forward, Practice Ready: Preparing Practice-Ready Nurses at Scale



Betty Jo Rocchio, DNP, RN, CRNA, CENP, EBP-C
Executive Vice President & Chief Nurse Executive
Advocate Health



Stephanie Zidek, PhD, RN, AGCNS-BC, NEA-BC, NPD-BC
Vice President, Nursing Education & Professional Development
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Nurses are entering the workforce not ready to practice, and that readiness gap continues to grow with complex technology and high patient acuity. Discover how Advocate Health, the nation's third-largest nonprofit integrated health system, is launching an innovative academic-practice partnership with Chamberlain University in which the final semester of the BSN program doubles as orientation. Designed to better attract, prepare, and retain new-graduate nurses, the *People Forward, Practice Ready* model integrates education, clinical immersion, and workforce strategy to accelerate practice readiness, reimagine the transition to professional practice, and strengthen the nursing workforce pipeline.

Connecting Realities of Practice to the Classroom



Amy Delaney, PhD, RN, CPNP
Assistant Professor of Nursing,
Providence College



Nancy Meedzan, DNP, RN, CNE, NEA-BC
Associate Dean of Nursing, Professor of Nursing,
Providence College

Preparing practice-ready nurses requires innovation on both sides of the academic-practice partnership. Learn how Providence College, which opened its school of nursing with a distinct focus on preparing nurses for the realities of clinical practice, is continuing to evolve its approach to nursing education to meet the changing needs of healthcare.

Orientation and Beyond: Building Confidence, Competence, and Connection



Betsy Hassan, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, FAAN, FNAP
Director, Nursing Education and Professional Development,
University of Vermont Medical Center

Preparing practice-ready nurses is a shared responsibility—and health systems play a critical role. The University of Vermont Medical Center is strengthening the transition to practice through Nurse Residency Programs, mentorship, and professional development, all with the goal of helping to foster confidence, competence, and long-term success.

PROGRAM AGENDA

- 8:30 ONL Business Meeting
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 **Preparing the Nursing Workforce We Need**
- 12:00 Adjournment

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This program offers something for nurses at all levels of leadership, from nurses leading change at the bedside to those leading health systems.

The Organization of Nurse Leaders - New England is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by The American Nurses Association Massachusetts, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Registration Fee:** \$99
- Contact Hours:** 2.0
- To Register a Group:**
[Download Our Sign-Up Form](#)

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