

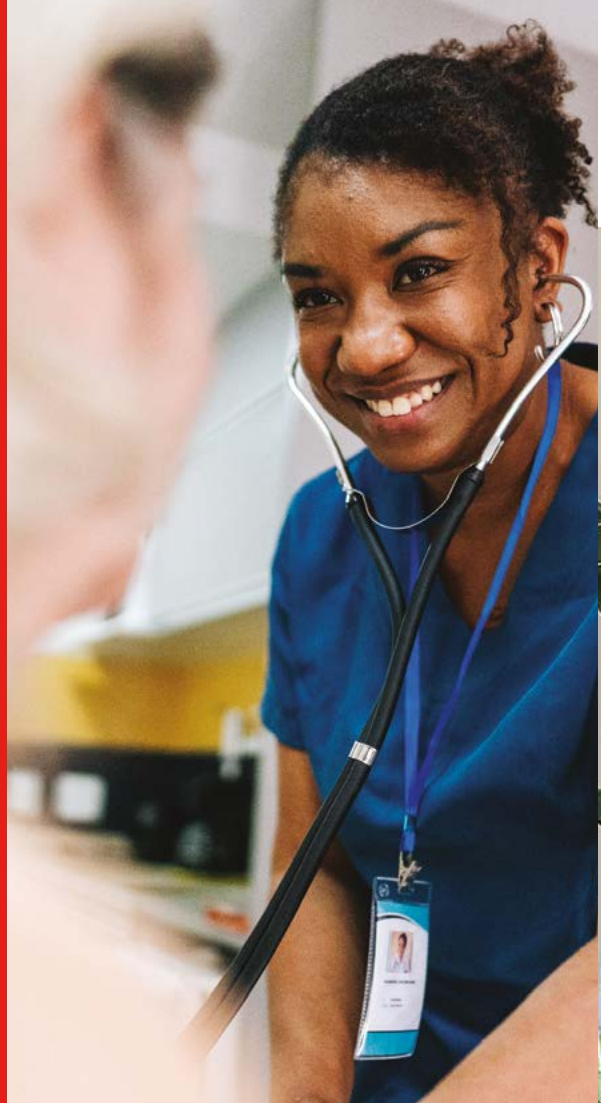


Johnson&Johnson

For healthcare to work, it takes nurses.

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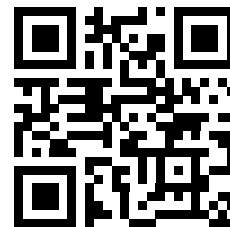
Johnson & Johnson is proud to share the inspiring stories of nurse innovators and leaders shaping the future of healthcare.



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Notes on Nursing



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stellarhomegroupmd.com
Office: (410) 515-2000



Danielle McCamey

DNP, CRNP, FNP-BC, FCCP, FADLN, FAAN
Founder, CEO, & President, DNP's of Color

WELCOME TO OAKLAND!



Everything feels so urgent right now. Everything feels so overwhelming.

But as Angela Davis reminds us, *"It is in collectivities that we find reservoirs of hope and optimism."* This weekend is about finding that reservoir together.

I really underestimated how powerful this theme would be when we announced it. But here we are, October 16–19, 2025 and I don't know about you, but I've been anxiously awaiting this moment to be together, in person, in community.

Let me be honest with you. When we chose this theme, I didn't really know how to rest. I thought rest was quitting. I thought slowing down meant I wasn't producing enough, leading enough, being enough. So I kept going until my body said, "NOPE, we're done," and took the rest for me. My nervous system was so activated, I didn't realize I was living in constant fight-or-flight until I wasn't anymore. And then it hit me: how many of us are out here doing the same thing?

I thought about you. About us. Our communities don't give us permission to rest. We're told rest is lazy, that we have to earn it, that there's too much work to be done. But what if we gave ourselves permission anyway? What if this conference became the space where we figured out what rest even means, together?

Rest is not surrender it's reclamation. It's a radical act of saying, *"I matter, even when I pause."* This weekend, take what you need. Rest may look different for each of us: solitude, laughter, dancing at the Pajama Jam, connecting over new ideas, or simply breathing without performance. Whatever it is, claim it. You have permission.

And just as important as rest is resistance. Watching our society crumble under policies and rhetoric that target the most marginalized among us: that's my family, that's your family, that's our patients, our students, our communities. I realized I didn't know how to mobilize or resist in a way that was sustainable. And I knew I wasn't alone in that feeling.

We're living in times that demand resistance rooted in truth, courage, and community. The world continues to test us, and our profession continues to stretch us. We are caring for others while trying to hold space for ourselves. We're advocating for equity in systems that still deny it. And yet, here we stand together showing up, pushing forward, leading change in spaces that were never designed with us in mind. **That's resistance.**

And what better place to gather than **Oakland**, a city that embodies both rest and resistance. This is the soil where the **Black Panther Party** built free breakfast programs and demanded dignity. Where **Chicano activists** in Fruitvale founded La Clínica de La Raza to meet community needs. Where the **Intertribal Friendship House** became a sacred space for Native community organizing. Where, in 1946, workers shut down the entire city in the Oakland General Strike to prove that collective action can move mountains.

Oakland has always known how to set it off as a city of power, pride, and progress. It feels only right that we gather here, in this sacred place of movement and meaning.

This marks our first conference held across the nation and **baby**, let me tell you, **no rest was had** in the planning of this event. But the labor is all love, and we have so many exciting speakers and experiences in store for you over these four days.

On **October 19th**, we'll celebrate **National DNPs of Color Day**, our official founding day.

Moving forward, we're branding the **third weekend of October** as our annual conference weekend. This is our time. This is our space.

So, as you move through the next few days, here's my invitation: **Be you. Do you. Rest and resist.** Network because it adds to your net worth.

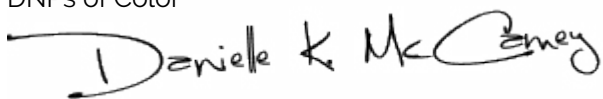
Find a mentor or be one. Share your advocacy passions. Discover what resistance looks like for you whether that's changing policy, leading innovation, organizing in community, or simply taking up space unapologetically. Learn what rest looks like for you whether that's saying no, setting boundaries, or embracing joy as your birthright.

Most of all, find your community here.

We welcome you exactly as you are.

With gratitude and love,

Danielle K. McCamey, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FCCP, FADLN
Founder, President, and CEO
DNPs of Color





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Piri Ackerman
PhD, RN, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN

Piri Ackerman is the associate dean for Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence, as well as a clinical professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. Dr. Ackerman's academic interests include nursing pedagogy, student success, and health equity. Throughout her career, Dr. Ackerman has applied her nursing and education background to promote inclusive learning and health equity. Her ongoing interdisciplinary work has been recognized through fellowships in the American Academy of Nurses, the Association for Diversity Nursing Leaders, and the National League for Nursing. In 2023, Ackerman- was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Public Service conferred by the University of Portland.

Welcome to OAKLAND

Why Oakland? The Perfect Conference Destination

Oakland celebrates diversity through its vibrant communities, thriving arts scene, and stunning natural beauty. Independent shops and restaurants reflect the city's authentic character and civic pride. It's no wonder Condé Nast Traveler readers voted Oakland the #1 Best Food City in America—the multi-cultural cuisine here is world-class.

Ideally Located

Situated on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay, Oakland boasts 19 miles of coastline with rolling hills as a scenic backdrop. Three major airports serve the region, and the city is easily accessible by rail, bus, or ferry.

Explore Oakland

The city offers something for everyone:

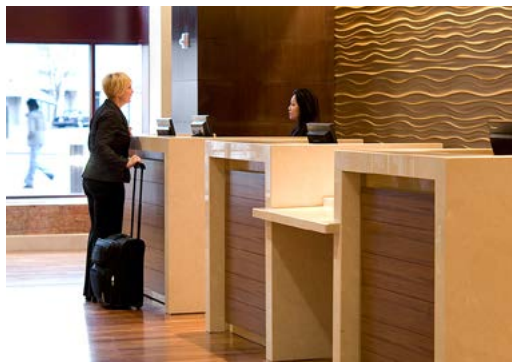
- Oakland Zoo and Lake Merritt
- Oakland Museum of California
- Live music venues and theaters
- Children's Fairyland
- Chabot Space & Science Center
- Numerous parks and outdoor spaces

Stay Awhile

With so much to experience, plan to extend your visit. Oakland offers diverse lodging options including luxury hotels, boutique properties, family-friendly accommodations, and trusted national chains—something for every preference and budget.

Oakland isn't just a conference location—it's a destination worth experiencing.





Your Conference Home Base

OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

The Oakland Marriott City Center serves as the official conference hotel, directly connected to the Oakland Convention Center for seamless access to all sessions. Located in the heart of downtown Oakland, you're steps away from exceptional dining, cultural attractions, and entertainment including Oakland Arena, Jack London Square, and countless restaurants and galleries.

After networking and sessions, unwind at the hotel's Topgolf Swing Suite, fitness center, or Iron & Oak restaurant and bar. Guest rooms feature soundproof windows, premium bedding, rainfall showers, and local artwork for a comfortable retreat. Upgrade to M Club for exclusive amenities and personalized service throughout your stay.



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CONGRATULATIONS

to the DNPs of Color for empowering nurse leaders and transforming doctoral education by promoting diversity and inclusion.

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A photograph of a traditional red torii gate, a common feature in Japanese gardens. The gate is made of two thick red pillars supporting two horizontal red beams. It stands on a gravel path, with a pile of smooth, light-colored stones at its base. The background is filled with lush green trees, and the scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of late afternoon or early morning.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- Dr. Shelitha R. Campbell, co-chair
- Dr. Sharon Goldfarb, co-chair
- Dr. Yvette Conyers
- Dr. LaDonna Brown
- Dr. Ka'Shiris Perryman
- Dr. Michelle Webb
- Dr. Tammi Lining
- Dr. Bridget Leonard
- Dr. Maria Krol



Celebrating National DNPs of Color Day October 19, 2025

Founded by Dr. Danielle McCamey in 2016, DNPs of Color (DOCs) was officially approved as a nonprofit organization on October 19, 2018—a date now celebrated as National DNPs of Color Day. DOCs became fully operational in 2020 with the launch of its first program, Virtual Commencement, honoring DNP graduates impacted by COVID-19, and the establishment of its inaugural Board of Directors.

Wear your DOCs para with pride—because your very existence, whether you're an official member or not, is literally changing the face and impact of nursing practice. This day also marks the kickoff to National DNP Week, a time to celebrate the power, purpose, and impact of DNPs everywhere. And every 19th of the month, we honor DOCs Day—for you, for us, and for the communities we serve and represent.

You can find merch at the DOC Shop online and the exhibit hall during the conference.



CONFERENCE NONPROFIT

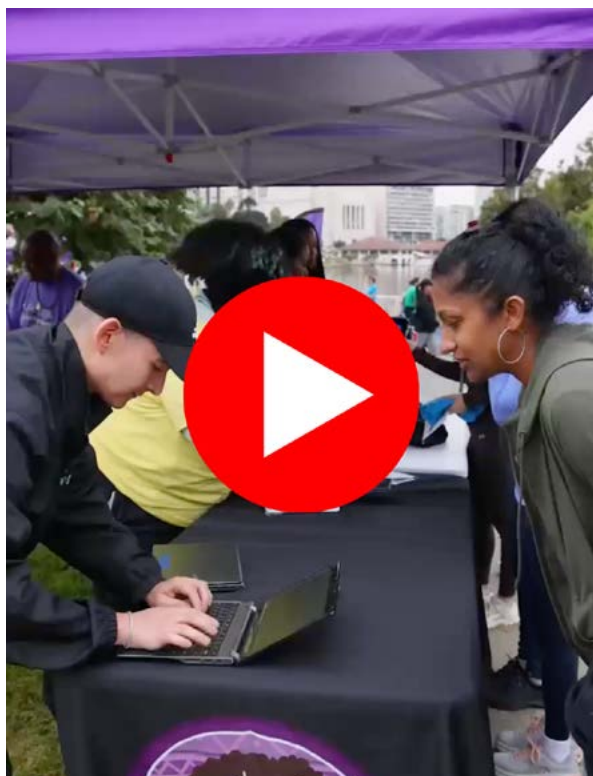


About a Sista's Touch

The influence of A Sista's Touch in our communities knows no bounds. As matriarchs, educators, executives, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, and public servants, we serve as role models for the generations that follow. A Sista's Touch honors this legacy by strengthening relationships, building confidence and agency, and uplifting the positive recognition of Black women across generations.

Who We Are

A Sista's Touch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public-benefit organization founded in January 2017 in the State of California. Based in Oakland, CA, the organization was created to uplift and empower women — especially adolescent girls — in the Bay Area and beyond.



Mission & Vision

Mission: To cultivate and celebrate Black excellence through the inspirations of African American women, with a foundational focus on adolescent girls.

Aim

- **Edify:** Provide foundational resources to explore new interests.
- **Elevate:** Offer support to help women and girls develop their passions.
- **Celebrate:** Recognize and honor high achievement within the Sista community.

Through this platform, A Sista's Touch seeks to harness collective strength and foster generational impact across local and broader communities.

Programs & Initiatives

A Sista's Touch operates programs that directly put its mission into action, helping women and girls grow in confidence, self-worth, and community engagement.



We Run Oakland: For Our Children (Annual 5K)

In partnership with DopeOnly, this event raises awareness around human trafficking, promotes community wellness, and bridges gaps between resources and outreach. Participants emphasize respect, self-worth, and the elimination of exploitation in their communities while building physical and mental health.

A Sista's Always Prepared – Puberty To Queen

Designed for girls ages 8 to 12, this edification program helps young women transition through puberty with knowledge and confidence. It promotes internal strength and a healthy understanding of womanhood.

A Sista's Always Prepared – Loving Me First (Launching in 2026)

Designed for girls ages 13 to 18, this new initiative addresses self-worth, healthy relationships, exploitation awareness, and future planning through peer support, mentorship, and college/career readiness.

Fundraising Goal: \$10,000 Ways to Support A Sista's Touch

**Bid on
Items**

(Online Auction)

Tap Here

**Register to
Run**

(Virtual 5K)

Tap Here

**Donate
Today Now**

(Donation Page)

Tap Here

**Join Our
Presentation**

(Virtual
Presentation)

Tap Here

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Dr. Shelitha Campbell

2025 McCamey-DeWitty Founders Lifetime Achievement & Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Shelitha R. Campbell stands as a transformative force whose work is redefining what it means to cultivate belonging and excellence in nursing education. Her career embodies the essence of the McCamey-DeWitty Founders Lifetime Achievement & Distinguished Service Award—a legacy of mentorship, cultural integrity, and relentless commitment to advancing nurses of color. She leads with authenticity and vision, guided by the conviction that diversity cannot exist as an aspiration within nursing—it must be the very foundation upon which educational and professional excellence is built.

For over 28 years, she has been committed to the elevation of excellence in academia, clinical practice, and service to the community. Dr. Campbell has served as Assistant Professor in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Samuel Merritt University, where her teaching transcends traditional pedagogy. Her classroom is a space of radical encouragement and cultural humility, where students—particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds—discover their voices, claim their power, and learn to lead with purpose. Her mentorship transforms students' understanding of their own capabilities, pushing them to rise not only for themselves but for the communities they serve. When Samuel Merritt transitioned to the AACN New Essentials and competency-based education, it was Dr. Campbell who provided clarity and structure, building faculty confidence while keeping equity and belonging at the center of institutional transformation.

Her vision for breaking down barriers mirrors Dr. McCamey's founding mission. As Program Director for the HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant (\$2.2 million), Dr. Campbell architected pathways for nurses of color to access advanced education and leadership opportunities that have historically been out of reach. Like Dr. DeWitty's pioneering strategies for recruitment and retention, Dr. Campbell's leadership created comprehensive support systems that ensure underrepresented students not only enter doctoral programs but thrive within them. Her work reflects a deep understanding that workforce diversity is not a recruitment goal but a fundamental requirement for delivering equitable, culturally responsive care.

Through her role as co-founder and CEO of A Sista's Touch, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering



and protecting Black women and girls, and as CEO and Curator of the C.A.R.E. Symposium, LLC, Dr. Campbell addresses some of healthcare's most urgent and overlooked crises—human trafficking, trauma, and systemic health disparities. The C.A.R.E. Symposium, rooted in Capacity, Allyship, Resilience, and Equity, creates educational spaces designed to move hearts, transform lives, and advance justice. Her thought partnership was instrumental in hosting a Trauma Town Hall series with Oakland East Bay Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Center for Truth, Racial Healing, and Restorative Justice for Oaklanders. She also continues to serve on Samuel Merritt University's Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Education Team, bringing both clinical expertise and lived wisdom to impactful work to transform.

Grounded in her clinical practice as a Nurse Practitioner at Roots Community Health, Dr. Campbell bridges scholarship and service—translating institutional commitments to equity into tangible improvements in patient care for underserved communities. Her leadership reminds us that health equity is not theoretical; it is lived, practiced, and measurable in the lives touched and transformed by culturally responsive care.

Her commitment to mentorship and community-building directly advances the McCamey-DeWitty legacy of fostering belonging through supportive networks. As Faculty Advisor for Lambda Chi Chi Beta of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., and an active leader in the Bay Area Black Nurses Association, Dr. Campbell cultivates the next generation of nurse leaders with intentional guidance that supports them to step fully into leadership with confidence, cultural humility, and purposeful action. She creates bridges between academic learning and professional spaces where Black nurses are leading, innovating, and transforming care. Her approach is one of empowerment and sustainability—ensuring that every door she opens remains open for those who follow, and that every student she mentors finds not only guidance but the encouragement and resources necessary to succeed.

Dr. Campbell's influence extends through every student she has mentored, every barrier she has dismantled, and every space she has made more inclusive. Her students carry her lessons into their own practice, touching patients, lifting voices, and breaking down systemic obstacles. Her work demonstrates that transformation happens through intentional investment in people—creating environments where nurses of color feel valued, supported, and empowered to lead.

Dr. Campbell embodies the visionary spirit of Dr. Danielle McCamey and Dr. Vernell DeWitty—a spirit of service rooted in justice, excellence, and unwavering belief in the power of belonging. Her work is a living testament to the transformative power of nursing education driven by purpose and cultural integrity.

The DNPs of Color community proudly honors Dr. Shelitha R. Campbell with the McCamey-DeWitty Founders Lifetime Achievement & Distinguished Service Award for her extraordinary contributions to nursing workforce diversity, her transformative mentorship, and her unwavering commitment to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and opportunity through education, advocacy, and community-engaged scholarship. She stands as a beacon for what nursing education can and must be—culturally grounded, justice-driven, and unafraid to transform the profession one life at a time.



Future Dr. Tonka Williams

2025 Dr. Virginia Allen Distinguished Honorable Service to Humanity in Nursing Practice



Future Dr. Tonka Williams stands as a transformative leader whose work is redefining what it means to advance health equity in nursing. Her career embodies the essence of the Dr. Virginia Allen & The Black Angels Humanitarian Award—a legacy of courage, compassion, and relentless advocacy for justice in healthcare. She leads with vision and heart, guided by the conviction that equity cannot exist as an adjunct to clinical practice or policy—it must be the very foundation upon which nursing leadership stands. Her doctoral work addresses one of the most overlooked health inequities of our time: the disproportionate rate of fatal aortic dissections among Black Americans. Refusing to accept this silent crisis, Future Dr. Williams partnered with The John Ritter Foundation to launch a national Aortic Health Awareness Campaign specifically designed for and with the Black community. This culturally

grounded initiative combines trust-based engagement, peer-led education, and faith-based outreach to reach individuals where they live, worship, and gather. The campaign's measurable success and cultural resonance earned national recognition from the New York State Broadcasting Association, underscoring her belief that equitable care begins with culturally competent communication and authentic connection.

Her vision extends beyond national borders. Through a groundbreaking collaboration in South Africa, Future Dr. Williams is expanding the campaign internationally—creating a transcontinental model for awareness, provider education, and community empowerment that unites two continents through shared learning and collective purpose. Her global leadership reflects a deep understanding that health equity is not a regional aspiration but a universal responsibility.

As President-Elect of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, Future Dr. Williams brings an equity-centered voice to one of the largest and most influential nursing organizations in the world. Her leadership challenges systems to ask difficult but necessary questions about inclusion, representation, and access. By centering marginalized voices and transforming decision-making frameworks, she has redefined how professional organizations operationalize equity in nursing practice, certification, and leadership development.

Grounded in her clinical expertise as a certified medical-surgical nurse and Senior Nursing Director, Future Dr. Williams bridges strategy and practice—translating organizational commitments to equity into tangible improvements in patient care. Her leadership reminds us



that justice in healthcare is not theoretical; it is lived, practiced, and measurable in outcomes that change lives.

Her commitment to mentorship further amplifies her impact. Through her guidance, she cultivates the next generation of DNPs of Color and emerging nurse leaders, teaching them not only how to access leadership spaces, but how to transform them. Her approach is one of empowerment and sustainability—ensuring that every door she opens remains open for those who follow. Future Dr. Tonka Williams embodies the humanitarian spirit of Dr. Virginia Allen and The Black Angels—a spirit of service rooted in courage, excellence, and community. Her work is a living testament to the transformative power of nursing leadership driven by purpose and justice.

The DNPs of Color community proudly honors Future Dr. Tonka Williams with the Dr. Virginia Allen & The Black Angels Humanitarian Award for her extraordinary contributions to health equity, her visionary leadership, and her unwavering commitment to improving the human condition through innovation, mentorship, and advocacy. She stands as a beacon for what nursing can and must be—bold, compassionate, and unafraid to heal the world.

About Dr. Virginia Allen



Born in Pittsburgh in 1931 and raised in Detroit, Virginia moved to Staten Island at 16 to live with her aunt, a decision that launched her distinguished nursing career, including work as one of the “Black Angels” at Sea View Hospital's Tuberculosis Sanitarium. After involvement with the Women's Crisis Center in the 1960s, she pursued labor relations studies at Cornell, NYU, and the College of Staten Island to better serve union members at Local 144 and 1199 before returning to nursing and retiring from Staten Island University Hospital's Operating Room. A lifelong community activist spanning over 50 years, Virginia has served on numerous boards including Cultural Crossroads, Staten Island Ballet, Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, and the College of Staten Island Auxiliary Board, while holding nearly every position with the National Council of Negro Women Staten Island Section, where she established the Youth Scholarship Fund and annual Harambee Celebration. Her extensive civic engagement includes memberships in

the NAACP, New York Urban League, Sandy Ground Historical Society, Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, and the Schomburg Center, earning her recognition from elected officials, the Lambda Kappa Mu Distinguished Service Key, Staten Island Advance's Woman of Achievement Award (2005), and honors as a Black Angel in 2021. Virginia, who still holds a current nursing license and has been active with the Unitarian Church of Staten Island for over 40 years, enjoys music, art, theater, reading, and traveling, and is blessed with two grandsons, one great-granddaughter, and two great-grandsons.



Dr. Brian Pervis

2025 Distinguished Service in Advancing Health Equity Award



Dr. Brian Pervis stands as a nationally recognized champion whose work is transforming how healthcare systems address pain, addiction, and mental health in marginalized communities. His career embodies the essence of the DNPs of Color Advancing Health Equity Award—a commitment to leveraging clinical excellence, scholarly rigor, and community engagement to improve health outcomes for those most impacted by disparities and systemic injustice. He leads with compassion and courage, guided by the conviction that equity in healthcare is not an ideal to aspire toward but a fundamental right that must be actively fought for and realized in every clinical encounter.

For over two decades, Dr. Pervis has served as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Integrative Pain and Psych Care, where his practice centers the voices and experiences of patients navigating chronic pain, addiction, and mental illness—populations that have been historically overlooked, undertreated, and harmed by healthcare systems. His approach is rooted in trauma-informed, justice-centered care that respects each patient's dignity and lived context. His DNP capstone work led to the implementation of an opioid use disorder screening tool that improved early intervention in pain management settings, creating a pathway for patients to receive timely, life-saving care before crisis occurs.

His vision extends beyond individual patient encounters. As a co-author of the 2024 ASPMN Position Statement on Disparities and Injustices in Pain Care, Dr. Pervis has challenged the deeply embedded racial bias and systemic inequities that shape how pain is assessed, believed, and treated across healthcare. His published scholarship on AI-based assessment disparities and refugee grief advances the profession's understanding of how technology and policy can either perpetuate or dismantle harm. His work reflects a deep commitment to translating evidence into action—ensuring that research serves as a tool for justice rather than a detached academic exercise.

Grounded in his role as Department Chair at Excelsior University, Dr. Pervis bridges clinical practice and education, leading inclusive curriculum design and mentorship initiatives that promote antiracism and academic progression for nurses of color. He does not simply teach nursing—he cultivates equity-minded nurse leaders who understand that their clinical competence must be matched by their commitment to justice. His mentorship creates pathways for aspiring nurses of color to access advanced education, develop their voices, and lead with intention and cultural humility.



His commitment to community engagement further amplifies his impact. As a member of the National Selection Committee for the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program, Dr. Pervis shapes the future of diverse behavioral health leadership, ensuring that the next generation of mental health and addiction professionals reflects the communities they serve. As a Board member for the Quinipiack Valley Health District, he guides public health initiatives in underserved communities, translating policy into tangible improvements in population health outcomes. Through his service with Black Men In White Coats, the Medical Reserve Corps, and Sigma's Global Advocacy Academy, he facilitates clinical skills workshops and advocates for refugee health equity, ensuring that those most marginalized by systems of power have access to compassionate, competent care.

Dr. Pervis's leadership demonstrates that health equity is not achieved through singular interventions but through sustained, multilayered engagement across clinical practice, education, research, and community service. His work is present at the bedside and in the boardroom, in academic journals and in community health centers, in mentorship sessions and in national policy discussions. He is both a healer and a disruptor—providing care while simultaneously challenging the systems that create the conditions for illness and suffering. His influence extends through every patient whose pain is finally believed and treated, every nurse he has mentored into leadership, every policy he has shaped to be more just, and every community that benefits from his tireless advocacy. His work demonstrates that advancing health equity requires not only clinical expertise but also moral courage—the willingness to name injustice, challenge inequitable norms, and build solutions grounded in accountability and compassion.

The DNPs of Color community proudly honors Dr. Brian Pervis with the DNPs of Color Advancing Health Equity Award for his extraordinary contributions to transforming pain care, addiction treatment, and mental health services for marginalized populations. His scholarly leadership in dismantling racial bias in healthcare, his commitment to mentoring nurses of color, and his unwavering dedication to community-engaged practice embody the transformative impact this award celebrates. He stands as a beacon for what nursing leadership can and must be—clinically excellent, justice-driven, and unafraid to challenge systems that perpetuate harm.



CONFERENCE/GALA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

2025 Outstanding Mentor Award

- Dr. Pedro Morante

2025 Dr. Kechinyere Iheduru-Anderson Outstanding Scholar Award

- Dr. Rachel Butler

Outstanding Board member

- Ottamissiah (Missy) Moore
- Dr. Ronnie Ursin

Outstanding Conference Committee Service

- Dr. Michelle Webb

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Travel Grant Scholarship Recipients

- Wyiemah Binda
- Brianna Grace
- Yarisbell Collazo
- Carmen Noonan
- Christina Sanon
- Anisha McFadden
- Sabrina Jamal-Eddine
- Halima Walker
- Robbin Young
- Christina McCauley
- Janelle Jones

Outstanding Research Committee Service

- Dr. Justin Fontenot

Outstanding Governance Committee Service

- Dr. Diane Marie Hines

Outstanding Programming Committee Service

- Dr. Maria Krol

Outstanding DEIAA Global Affairs Committee Service

- Dr. Anyinke Atabong

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Travel Grant Scholarship

- Francesco Adefila
- Ayomidamope Adebiyi
- Stacy Buchanan
- MayaSunshine Custodio
- Crystal Tucker
- Abigail Suleman
- Saprina L. Campbell
- Andrea Dalzell
- Linda Frazier
- Muriel Nash
- Crystal Miles-Threatt



INAUGURAL DOC DAISY AWARD WINNERS

Sponsored by Dr. Marshall Blue Sr.

The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that honors the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care provided by nurses every day. Established by the DAISY Foundation, the award celebrates nurses who go above and beyond in their commitment to patients, families, and the nursing profession. DAISY Award recipients are nominated by patients, families, colleagues, and physicians who witness firsthand the remarkable difference these nurses make in the lives of those they serve. This year's inaugural DOC DAISY Award winners exemplify the highest standards of nursing excellence:

- **Nathaniel Saintus** – DAISY Nurse Leader Award
Recognizing outstanding leadership in nursing that inspires and elevates the entire healthcare team.
- **Tracy Wilson** – DAISY Nurses Advancing Health Equity Award
Honoring dedication to reducing health disparities and promoting equitable care for all patients.

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM SCHOLARSHIP

Leadership Lessons From Scholarship is awarded to recipients who demonstrate a commitment to ethical healthcare leadership and eliminating racism. The scholarship is sponsored by Leadership Lessons From..., a nonprofit foundation dedicated to ending racism and promoting ethical healthcare leadership. The foundation provides financial assistance to underrepresented populations pursuing careers as ethical healthcare leaders, including travel grant scholarships for DNP's of color to attend conferences. Additionally, Leadership Lessons From... supports primary research, education, and policy development that advance ethical healthcare leadership through podcasts, blogs, seminars, and research initiatives.

- **Carter Todd**
- **Rashidah Chisolm**

J&W PAULDIN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

J&W Pauldin Scholarship: Bridging Boundaries for Nursing Excellence. This scholarship, generously offered by donors who are fervent advocates for the progression of nursing, stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity. Rooted in the belief that access to knowledge and education has a transformative, collective impact, this scholarship aims to dismantle financial barriers. It is designed to empower aspiring nurses, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, to attend critical conferences like DNP's of Color.

- **Muriel Nash**
- **Crystal Miles-Threatt**



DR. TORICA T. FULLER SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Fuller, a distinguished nursing scholar, exemplifies an unwavering commitment to the advancement of nursing and professional growth. With immense generosity, providing this scholarship to passionate individuals dedicated to elevating their careers in nursing practice.

- **Aron King**

DUET DOCS CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Duet supports Nurse Practitioners transforming community health through NP-owned practices. The organization backs NP entrepreneurs with resources to address social determinants of health and succeed as independent businesses.

Duet's scholarship program helps standout NP practice owners—who often lack continuing education funds—attend conferences and access valuable professional development.

Meet the Duet Scholarship recipients for the DNPs of Color Conference.

- **Iesha Nwagwu**
- **Michelle Jones**
- **Dr. Pedro Morante**



We support Nurse Practitioners transforming health outcomes.

At Duet, we're on a mission to transform community health through trusted, NP-owned practices. We back leading NP entrepreneurs with the resources they need to address social determinants of health and succeed as independent businesses.

Since many NP organizations asked us to sponsor conferences, we created a unique model: scholarships for standout NP practice owners to attend. Our goal is to support your organization with paid attendance while helping practice owners—who often lack CE funds—access your programming.

Meet the scholarship winners of the DNPs of Color Conference 🏆



Ilesha Nwagwu
MSN, APRN, FPA, FNP-BC, CDP
CEO & Founder | Nurse Practitioner
Mental Health & Community Advocate

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Ilesha Nwagwu is a highly accomplished Nurse Practitioner, wife, mother, and proud Chicago native with over 18 years of diverse experience across the healthcare continuum. She earned her BSN from Chicago State University and MSN from Chamberlain University and is completing post-graduate training at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to become a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Licensed in Illinois—with Full Practice Authority—and Michigan, she is board-certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner (AANP) and certified by the National Council of Dementia Nurse Practitioners. As Founder and CEO of Mperfect Wellness and CHI-ORA, she leads with compassion, addressing healthcare access, equity, and education while supporting vulnerable communities.





Michelle Jones
APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Michelle Jones is a double board-certified Nurse Practitioner with over 20 years of experience in family and psychiatric care. Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, she brings a deep commitment to community wellness. Michelle is the founder of Lynn Wellness, where she combines clinical expertise with compassion to support mental health and weight management.

Known as a motivator, caring provider, and peacemaker, she creates safe, empowering spaces for healing and growth. Michelle earned her nursing degrees from Saint Xavier University and Chamberlain University and currently practices in chronic care. She is passionate about helping individuals take charge of their health and believes that healing begins with a single conversation.



Pedro Morante
DNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Pedro Morante is a dynamic nurse practitioner entrepreneur, national board exam strategist, and global mental health leader. He serves as Lead Clinical Director for PsychUp Mental Health Services and is Founder and CEO of PASS Review Center, empowering future NPs through advanced exam prep, AI learning, and mentorship.

Recognized with TOFA in Global Healthcare (2024) and Amerika Prestige Award (2024), he is dual board-certified in Psychiatric-Mental Health and Family Practice. Dr. Morante also founded the PsychUp Mental Health Foundation and shares insights through speaking, publications, and his podcast, Mindful Moments with Pedro Morante.



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ABOUT DOCS

DNPs of Color (DOC), is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase diversity in doctoral studies, clinical practice, and leadership for nurses. DNP, short for Doctor of Nursing Practice, is the highest level of education a nurse can attain which focuses on clinical practice. DNPs influence healthcare outcomes through healthcare policy, organizational leadership, and translating nursing research into evidenced-based practice.

DOCs top priorities are networking and mentoring. We have provided an online community for nurses of color who have obtained, are aspiring, or working towards obtaining their DNP. DOCs activities include professional development, conferences, speaker events, reward and recognition.

MISSION

To serve DNPs of Color through networking, mentorship and advocacy to increase diversity in doctoral studies, clinical practice and leadership.

VISION

To inspire, empower and transform the landscape of nursing by increasing diversity in doctoral nursing practice

Objectives

- To create opportunities for engagement in academia, research and clinical practice.
- To advocate for educational support for DNPs of Color.
- To serve as mentors and guide nurses of color to pursue Doctor of Nursing practice studies.

Virtual Commencement-one of our signature events-launched during the pandemic. We've recognized nearly 200 graduates since Spring 2020!

Since 2020 DNPs of Color reach has expanded internationally to nearly 3,000 members that includes students, a spectrum of DNP professionals, allies, academic institutions and beyond.

Our 2nd conference in 2022 drew over 200 registrants and 50 sponsors including Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



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Day 1: Thursday, October 16, 2025

Conference: Grand Ballroom

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration & Sunrise Mindfulness

Begin the day with calm and intention. Participate in a guided mindfulness session and engage with exhibitors.

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Welcome by Conference Co-Chairs

Opening remarks and conference overview.

- *Shelitha R. Campbell, DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP-BC, PHN*
- *Sharon Goldfarb, DNP, RN, FNP-BC*

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Cough in Primary Care

This session explores the evaluation and management of cough in primary care, highlighting common causes, red flag symptoms, and evidence-based treatment strategies. Attendees will gain practical approaches for differential diagnosis, patient education, and when to refer, ensuring safe, effective, and patient-centered care for this frequent clinical complaint.

Efrat Lamandre, PhD, FNP

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Mindfulness Break & Engage with Exhibitors



10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Menopause in Primary Care

This session addresses the essential role of primary care in supporting patients through menopause. Topics include symptom recognition, evidence-based management options, lifestyle interventions, and culturally sensitive communication. Participants will leave with practical tools to guide care, improve quality of life, and foster open conversations around this life stage.

Efrat Lamandre, PhD, FNP

11:30 AM – 11:50 AM

Rest by Design: Reclaiming Personal Energy Through the Lens of Human Design

Discover how Human Design can help you reclaim your energy, align with your natural rhythm, and resist burnout. This session offers a practical, restorative approach to rest—rooted in who you are and how you're built to thrive.

Tiffany Gibson, MSN, RN

11:50 AM – 12:50 PM

Lunch & Learn with BridgeBio

Engage with Exhibitors

Understanding ATTR-CM: A Distinct and Treatable Cause of Heart Failure.

Jannae White, DNP

12:50 PM – 1:50 PM

Nursing is Political: No More Silence, No More Waiting—Our Time Is Now

This session confronts the myth of nursing as apolitical and calls DNPs to action. We'll explore how silence fuels inequity and how nursing power must be mobilized for policy, justice, and systemic change. It's time to lead—loudly, boldly, and now.

- *Justin Gill, DNP, APRN, RN*
- *Michelle Nelson, PhD, MS, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, FNAP, FADLN*
- *Roberto Roman Laporte, PhD, DNP, RN, CMSRN, EBP-C*
- *Daniela Vargas, MSN, MPH, MA-Bioethics, RN, PHN*
- *Moderator: Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP*



1:50 PM – 3:50 PM

Duet Workshop: Building in Rest—Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Practice

Join Duet for an interactive workshop designed to support nurse practitioners in launching and growing independent practices with intention. Learn how entrepreneurship can create space for balance, autonomy, and long-term sustainability aligning your professional goals with your personal well-being.

- *Efrat Lamandre, PhD, FNP*
- *Alicia Korpi Ortiz, MPH*

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM

Mindfulness Break or Vendor Engagement

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Entrepreneurial Panel: Minding My Own Business

This dynamic panel features nurse leaders who have built successful businesses across clinical practice, consulting, and beyond. Hear real stories, lessons learned, and practical advice on navigating entrepreneurship while staying grounded in purpose, wellness, and impact.

- *Theo Jones, MSN, FNP-BC*
- *April Odom, DNP, FNP-BC*
- *Ebony Thyme, MSN, FNP-C*
- *Taofiki Gafar-Schaner, MSN, RN*
- *Moderator: Efrat Lamandre, PhD, FNP*

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Finances 101

- *Anthony Riley-Barrett*
- *Qasim Ellis*
- *Elzie Ross*



6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Mix & Mingle Pajama Jammy Jam

Location: Skyline Room

Latin & Line Dancing Pajama Jammy Jam. Come vibe with us at the ultimate nighttime wind-down, featuring sounds by the legendary DJ Harvey Dent. Rock your best PJs and join us for an evening of music, mocktails, and connection. Rest meets rhythm in this joyful celebration of community and care.

Featuring: DJ Harvey Dent

Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025

Conference: Grand Ballroom

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Registration, Vendor Engagement & Sunrise Mindfulness (optional)

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

Welcome & Conference Theme

Danielle McCamey, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FCCP, FADLN

8:10 AM – 8:20 AM

Mindfulness Intention Setting

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN



8:25 AM – 8:45 AM

Recharge and Rest: DNP's Leveraging Expertise into Leadership and Influence

DNPs possess deep subject matter expertise (SME) that can be leveraged into meaningful leadership, visibility, and influence across healthcare systems. This session, Recharge and Rest: DNP's Leveraging Expertise into Leadership and Influence, explores practical strategies for clarifying your SME focus, publicly sharing knowledge, and demonstrating measurable impact that drives policy, program, and system-level change.

Kim Byas, PhD, MPH, FACHE

8:50 AM – 9:50 AM

Advocacy Toolkit

Empowering DNP's with advocacy tools for effective change.

Devyn Nixon, MSN, FNP-BC

9:55 AM – 10:15 AM

To the Beat of the heART

This presentation highlights a quality improvement project that used art to engage second-semester nursing students in discussions on health equity. Funded by the 2024 Dean's Teaching Scholar Award, the project aligns with the University's strategic plan and the School of Nursing's mission. Through classroom instruction and a Baltimore museum visit, students explored social determinants of health using active, reflective learning. Led by nursing faculty, a DEI dean, and an art therapist, the initiative improved students' understanding of health equity. Pre- and post-assessments showed positive impact. Continued leadership support is essential to expand this innovative, arts-based approach to all students.

Yvette Conyers, DNP, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CNE, CWCN-AP, FADLN

10:20 AM – 10:40 AM

Power in Partnership: Leveraging HBCU and DNP's of Color Collaboration to Advance Equity, Identity, and Workforce Transformation

This presentation explores a forward-thinking collaboration between a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and DNP's of Color (DOCs), showcasing how



strategic partnerships can strengthen professional identity, expand access, and advance equity in nursing. HBCUs play a critical role in cultivating the next generation of diverse nurse leaders, while organizations like DOCs offer essential spaces for advocacy, mentorship, and professional socialization. Together, these institutions foster innovation, challenge traditional barriers, and uplift communities of color by creating opportunities that reflect shared values and lived experiences. This session will highlight best practices and the transformative impact of collaborative leadership in shaping a more inclusive and empowered future for the nursing profession.

- *Tiffany Morris, DNP, MS Ed, MSN, CNE*
- *Joy Coles, DNP, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CNE, CWCN-AP, FADLN*
- *Danielle McCamey, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FCCP, FADLN*

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM

Break & Engage with Exhibitors

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM

History Panel: HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area

Reflective discussion on the historical and ongoing impact of HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area.

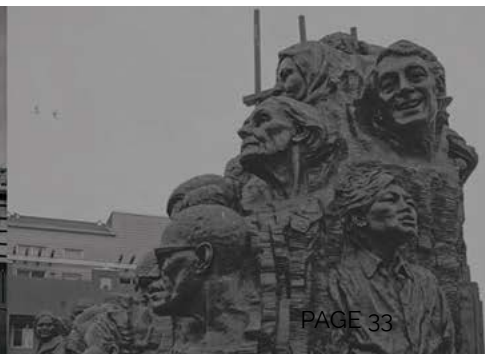
- *Ravenne Aponte, PhD(c), BSN, RN*
- *Antoine Johnson, PhD*
- *Joanna Seltzer Uribe, EdD, MSN, RN*

11:50 AM – 12:50 PM

Lunch & Learn with Johnson & Johnson: Storytelling for Impact: Owning Your Story to Build Strength

Exhibitor Engagement

Hear a registered nurse's personal story about navigating overwhelm, burnout, and rest (forced!!) in her nursing career and how it all became essential parts of her ability to advocate for the nursing profession and workforce.



1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Keynote Address

Piri Ackerman, PhD, RN, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN

1:35 PM – 1:55 PM

You Belong In Here: Amplifying Black Voices in Healthcare through Rest and Resistance

This presentation explores how rest and resistance intersect as essential strategies for resilience among Black healthcare professionals and the communities they serve. Grounded in research and storytelling, it draws from "You Belong In Here: A Black Healthcare Perspectives Podcast," which features candid conversations with Black providers about their lived experiences. Storytelling emerges as a healing, community-building tool that fosters spiritual connection and reflection. Post-podcast surveys revealed that guests found sharing their stories personally healing, believed their narratives could inspire resilience in others, and experienced renewed hope. This work underscores the power of storytelling as both resistance and restorative practice.

Tiffany Brown, DNP, MADD, BSN, FNP-BC, RN

2:00 PM – 2:20 PM

From Lived Experience to Clinical Framework: Designing Justice-Oriented Mental Health Space

This presentation explores how to build and sustain a psychiatric private practice rooted in decolonized, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive care. As a DNP and PMHNP of color, I share strategies informed by lived experience and clinical expertise to support Black, Brown, LGBTQ+, and neurodivergent communities. The practice model centers healing, equity, and justice through culturally responsive frameworks, identity-affirming intake processes, staff training, and community engagement. This session offers a replicable approach for providers—especially PMHNPs of color—seeking to embed anti-oppressive values into clinical care, leadership, and systems. Practical recommendations for implementation, mentorship, and sustainability are also included.

Chanel Thomas, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, RN-BC



2:25 PM – 2:45 PM

Rest as Resistance: Addressing Allostatic Overload in Nurse Practitioners of Color

This evidence-based presentation examines how structural racism and occupational stress contribute to allostatic load and overload among nurse practitioners of color. Chronic exposure to racialized and workplace stressors can result in physical, emotional, and cognitive harm. Grounded in neuroscience and wellness frameworks, this session explores rest as a radical, resistance-based intervention. Using a quality improvement lens, we highlight strategies such as trauma-informed leadership, racial healing circles, and workload redesign. Case examples illustrate how intentional rest can reduce burnout and foster resilience. Recommendations include culturally responsive mental health supports, institutional policies for psychological safety, and peer-led healing spaces.

Janelle Jones, DNP, PMHNP-BC

2:45 PM – 2:55 PM

Mindfulness Break & Exhibitor Engagement

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Signature Panel: Rest & Resistance: Leaning into History, Activism, and Intentional Rest

Rest and resistance go hand in hand. Resistance is direct action—organizing, disrupting, speaking truth. Rest is also action—a refusal to be depleted, a rejection of grind culture, a reclaiming of our bodies and time. This panel brings together thinkers, healers, and activists to explore how rest fuels resistance, and how both are essential to survival and liberation. We'll talk history, strategy, burnout, and boundaries. We'll name what's breaking us—and what can save us. Because we're not here to endure—we're here to transform.

- *Rodney Duckett, DNP, APRN, FNP-C*
- *Antoine Johnson, PhD*
- *Danielle McCamey, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FCCP, FADLN*
- *Angela Omulepu, MA, PhD(c)*
- *Sarah Warren, BSN, RN*



4:00 PM – 4:10 PM

Mindfulness Regroup or Break

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

4:10 PM – 4:30 PM

Navigating the Postpartum Journey Safely

The postpartum period is a critical yet often neglected time in maternal health. More than 50% of maternal deaths occur after birth, with over 80% being preventable. Black women face three times the maternal mortality risk compared to white women due to systemic inequities and gaps in care. For every maternal death, 70 women experience severe complications, totaling over 50,000 cases of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) annually. This presentation will review the POST BIRTH warning signs, crucial for recognizing life-threatening postpartum complications. Attendees will also be introduced to the CDC's Hear Her campaign, which encourages listening to postpartum concerns, so that there is no delay in the early recognition of life-threatening complications, and to ensure that no patient's complaints are dismissed. By increasing awareness, advocacy, and education, we can improve outcomes and reduce preventable deaths, particularly among Black mothers who face the highest risks.

Janet Williams, DNP, MSM, CNM, FACNM

4:35 PM – 4:55 PM

Echoes of Inequality in Sickle Cell Care

This presentation examines how structural racism continues to shape disparities in sickle cell care, particularly for African American patients. Despite growing awareness of systemic inequities, progress in closing these gaps remains limited. Sickle cell disease (SCD) is underfunded, poorly understood, and often mismanaged due to implicit bias, limited provider knowledge, and inadequate access to resources. Patients face barriers including delayed treatment, under-treated pain, and poorer outcomes. This session calls for a multifaceted response—provider education, policy reform, equitable resource allocation, and community engagement—to dismantle systemic inequities and reimagine a healthcare system that delivers just and equitable care for those with SCD.

Angel McCullough, DNP, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, FACHE



4:55 PM – 5:15 PM

Addressing Knowledge Deficits in Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a critical process that enables patients to make informed decisions about their future healthcare preferences. Many healthcare professionals exhibit a significant knowledge deficit regarding Advanced Care Planning. Healthcare professionals lack comprehensive education on Advanced Care Planning, leading to discomfort in initiating patient discussions. This session will explore the extent of knowledge deficits among Health Care Professionals regarding Advanced Care Planning and identify key barriers affecting their understanding and implementation of Advanced CP in clinical practice. Defining the basic information in an advanced care plan and utilizing communication tools will promote the integration of advanced care planning into daily practice. Enhanced training can empower HealthCare Professionals to engage in meaningful conversations, ensuring patients' palliative care and end-of-life preferences are respected and implemented effectively.

Ottamissiah Moore, BSN, RN, WCC, CHPN, End of Life Doula DNP-c

5:15 PM – 5:35 PM

Soulstainable Success in Healthcare: Mindful Practices for Resilience, Renewal & Realignment

This session is designed specifically for healthcare professionals seeking to sustain high performance while showing up as their best selves. Through the lens of mindful practice, attendees will learn practical, strategies to foster personal resilience, create space for renewal, and realign with their core purpose. Attendees will leave with insights on how to support their well-being in a sustainable way enhancing both personal fulfillment and the quality of care they provide.

Tiffany Martin

5:35 PM – 6:05 PM

Mayor Lee Tour (optional, must RSVP)

Sharon Goldfarb, DNP, RN, FNP-BC

5:35 PM – 8:35 PM

Wound Care Happy Hour at BOCA Nova (optional, must RSVP)

Ottamissiah Moore, BSN, RN, WCC, CHPN, End of Life Doula DNP-c



5:35 PM – 8:35 PM

Student Mix and Mingle (optional, must RSVP)

Michael Williams, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Day 3: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Conference: Grand Ballroom

7:00 AM – 7:15 AM

Sunrise Mindfulness & Exhibit Engagement

Registration/Vendor Engagement

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

7:15 – 8:15 AM

Poster Pitch Presentations & Competition

Presenters will be as follows:

- *Ayomidamope Adebiyi, DNP(c), APRN, FNP-BC, CEN, COHN-S: Rest and Resistance: Integrated Ergonomic and Physical Activity Interventions to Reduce Musculoskeletal Disorders in High-Risk Workers*
- *Fred Reed, III, DNP, MBA, CRNA, NEA-BC, CNE: Emotional Availability in Nursing: The Role of Sleep Quality on Care Delivery – A Concept Analysis*
- *Halima Walker, MSN, RN, CCRN, NEA-BC: Utilizing Bandura's self-efficacy conceptual framework to inform nursing mentorship*
- *M. Tyler Wafer, BSN, RN: When we ask about sexual orientation and gender identity, health care gets better.*
- *Sarla Santos, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN: Student-Led Cultural Diversity Education in OB and Pediatrics*
- *Adrienne McIntyre, DNP, RNC-NIC, CNS*
- *Rachel Robinson, BSN, RN*



8:20 AM – 9:20 AM

Out Here in These Streets 101: Strategize. Organize. Mobilize.

Learn the fundamentals of community and movement organizing through the lens of collective care, cultural resilience, and resistance. Participants will explore how nurses can organize within and beyond healthcare systems—whether for policy change, workplace justice, or social transformation. From story-based strategies to coalition building, this session will provide practical tools rooted in history and present-day urgency. We'll connect the dots between advocacy and healing, showing how organizing is not just resistance—it's restoration.

- *Adrian Espinosa, MPH, MS, PHN, RN, FNP-BC*
- *Maisa Morrar, PA-C*
- *Claire Valderama-Wallace, PhD, MPH, RN, PHN*
- *Mimi Guiracocha, DNP, RN*

9:25 AM – 10:20 AM

100 Words, Infinite Impact: Stories that Shift the Narrative

In just 100 words, a story can challenge power, spark healing, and center voices too often unheard. This session invites participants to craft and share short, potent narratives that speak to their lived experiences. Whether rooted in clinical practice, policy, identity, or resistance, these micro-stories honor the depth of our journeys. Join us for a reflective, creative, and community-centered session that proves the brevity of words doesn't limit their power—it magnifies it. Come ready to write, witness, and be transformed.

- *Sheldon Frett, BS*
- *Christina M. Nyirati, PhD, RN*
- *Beth Toner, MSN, MJ, MFA, RN*
- *Chef Harold Villarosa*

10:20 AM – 10:30 AM

Break

10:30 AM – 11:10 AM

Reiki for the People

Reiki for the People is a healing-centered initiative that brings the restorative practice of Reiki to



communities of color. Rooted in equity and accessibility, this offering promotes balance, stress relief, and holistic well-being empowering nurses and the communities they serve to reclaim rest, renewal, and resilience.

Angela Omulepu, MA, PhD(c)

11:10 AM – 11:40 AM

We've Been Carrying it All: Rest, Our right for Mental Health,

This session invites us to unpack the weight we've normalized and reclaim rest as a necessary, non-negotiable act of preservation. Through the fusion of mental health, yoga, and wellness innovation, this conversation offers a multidimensional approach to healing and restoration. Together, we'll explore how rest is a mental health imperative, a form of resistance, and a pathway to healing. Join us to center wellness as our rightful tool for joy, restoration, and long-term sustainability in nursing and beyond.

- *Anyinke Atabong, DNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP-C*
- *Lendra James, DNP, MS, RN, NE-BC*

11:40 AM - 12:00 PM

Structural Competency Training for School Nurses

Structural competency is the ability to recognize and respond to the social, political, and economic structures that shape health outcomes and drive inequities. This quality improvement project utilized a one-group pre- and post-intervention design to assess whether a structural competency training influenced school nurses' understanding of systemic factors impacting student health. A 1.5-hour training, adapted from the Structural Competency Working Group curriculum, was delivered to school nurses in a racially, culturally, and economically diverse urban county in Northern California.

Rachel Torres, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CSN

12:00 PM - 12:20 PM

Addressing Nursing Leadership Burnout

Burnout among nursing leaders is a critical issue that impacts the quality of patient care, staff retention, and overall healthcare outcomes. This study explores the multifaceted nature of burnout in nursing leadership, examining both the contributing factors and effective interventions to address this pervasive problem.

Robbin Young, DNP, RN



12:20 PM - 12:40 PM

The POWER Framework in Action

This project aimed to address low staff engagement—heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic and leadership transitions—by implementing the POWER framework: Passion Pursuit, Open Communication, Well-being Focus, Empowerment, and Recognition. Each component was tailored to themes emerging from staff feedback and engagement assessments. Professional development opportunities supported Passion Pursuit, while transparent communication promoted trust. A focus on well-being fostered fairness and team cohesion. Empowerment initiatives encouraged ownership and accountability, and both formal and informal recognition efforts celebrated staff contributions. Implemented over two years and aligned with Gallup® engagement survey cycles, this initiative sought to rebuild morale, enhance retention, and strengthen workplace culture.

Muriel Moyo, DNP, MS, RN, CCRN, NE-BC, EBP-C

12:40 PM – 1:25 PM

Lunch & Exhibitor Engagement

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Student voices in action: What DOCs Students Want Academia to Know

This student panel offers nursing faculty a unique opportunity to hear directly from current DNP students. Panelists will share honest insights on what helps and hinders their learning, from classroom to clinical rotations. The discussion will highlight practical considerations in teaching style, inclusivity, and creating a supportive environment- offering educators a deeper understanding of the student perspective.

- *Francesco Adefila, MSN, RN*
- *Luis E. Caso Vega, MBA, BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, NE-BC, TCRN*
- *Michael Williams, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC*
- *Sterling Wilmer, BSN, RN*

2:35 PM - 2:55 PM

Perceptions of Discipline among Black Students with IDD

Corporal punishment remains legal in 17 states, disproportionately affecting Black students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Although Pennsylvania bans this practice, disparities



persist. This presentation shares findings from a modified Staff Perceptions of Behaviors and Discipline (SPBD) survey of 45 school nurses and counselors. While 52% of nurses believe Black students with IDD face harsher discipline, 70% of counselors disagree. Nurses were also more likely to recognize systemic barriers. This session explores these contrasting perceptions, discusses the broader implications for school-based interventions, and highlights the role of nurses in addressing inequities within educational and legal disciplinary systems.

Michelle Lockett, DNP, RN

3:00 PM - 3:20 PM

Weaving Caring Science into Curriculum and Practice of a National Nurse Residency Program: Building Resilience and Alleviating the Shock of Transitioning to Professional Practice

This quality improvement project sought to create systemic change in nursing education by connecting RNs in the Kaiser Permanente National Nurse Residency Program to Caritas Process® based practices and resources to alleviate the shock of transitioning to practice.

- *Brandy Beazley, DNP, RN, CNS*
- *Kindra Brooks DNP(c), MSN, RN, PHN*
- *Katy Rounsaville, MBA-HC, BSN, RN, CPHQ*

3:20 PM - 3:30 PM

Mindfulness regroup

Marcia Derby-Davis, PhD, RN

3:30 PM – 3:40 PM

Closing Remarks

Dwayne Alleyne, DNP, APRN, ACNP-C

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Cocktail Hour



7:30 PM

Dinner Served

7:45 PM – 8:15 PM

Mahoney & Allen Award & Scholarship Gala de la Résistance

Gala de la Résistance: Formal Wear with a Radical Flair

Protest Fashion Formal Wear

We invite you to show up in formal attire that reflects your activism, culture, or ancestral pride. Represent the movement that moves you whether that's racial justice, reproductive rights, climate action, or community healing. Embody an activist, wear your advocacy, or honor your heritage.

- Cultural garb, protest fashion, and symbolic accessories are encouraged.
- Come dressed to resist with elegance, intention, and unapologetic pride.

8:30 PM – 11:30 PM

Dancing

Day 4: Sunday, October 19, 2025

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Community Service Event — A Sista's Touch 5K (Virtual)

Virtual 5K supporting A Sista's Touch, promoting health and empowerment among women of color.

Shelitha R. Campbell, DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP-BC, PHN

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Community Service Event — A Sista's Touch Virtual Presentation & Fundraiser

Virtual presentation and fundraiser highlighting A Sista's Touch's mission and impact.

Shelitha R. Campbell, DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP-BC, PHN





PIRI ACKERMAN, PHD, RN, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Piri Ackerman is the associate dean for Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence, as well as a clinical professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. Dr. Ackerman's academic interests include nursing pedagogy, student success, and health equity. Throughout her career, Dr. Ackerman has applied her nursing and education background to promote inclusive learning and health equity. Her ongoing interdisciplinary work has been recognized through fellowships in the American Academy of Nurses, the Association for Diversity Nursing Leaders, and the National League for Nursing. In 2023, Ackerman- was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Public Service conferred by the University of Portland.



AYOMIDAMOPE ADEBIYI, DNP(C), APRN, FNP-BC, CEN, COHN-S

Ayomidamope (Ayo) Adebisi is an accomplished Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University, specializing in executive leadership and health policy. With expertise in occupational health, infectious disease surveillance, and workplace safety, she has designed innovative health protocols and led pandemic response initiatives at the University of California, Merced, as Clinical Programs Lead.

A two-time recipient of the U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award, Ayo founded Care for the Unreached, a nonprofit delivering maternal and child health services in rural Nigeria. She actively contributes to national policy through the AAOHN Legislative Affairs Advisory Committee and ensures biosafety compliance at UC Merced.

Honored with the American Nurses Leadership Jeanine Rivet Fellowship and other accolades, Ayo is a passionate advocate for health equity and nursing leadership.



FRANCESCO ADEFILA, MSN, RN

Francesco is a registered nurse specializing in mental health and emergency medicine. His upbringing in open-air drug market environments, in conjunction with his longstanding fascination with the brain, mind, and neuropharmacology, sparked his curiosity to explore the effects of substances on human beings as a career path. After extensively studying biology and chemistry at The Fisk University, he began his clinical journey in 2017 at a facility offering flotation therapy and ketamine treatment for active-duty soldiers and veterans with PTSD. This experience inspired him to pursue advanced training in psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy through the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). His academic training, combined with his work as a mixologist in jazz bars and high-end restaurants in Los Angeles, provided him with clarity on the topic of addiction: the true threat lies less in substances themselves and more in the contradictory gap between society's perceptions and the scientific literature. This realization influenced his dual mission: to support individuals with debilitating dependence while also advancing research into the therapeutic potential of those same substances. Nursing became the pathway through which he could fulfill this mission by providing compassionate care to this underrepresented population

while contributing to addiction science to bring discovery to the bedside and communities. He is currently a second-year PMHNP-DNP student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where he also serves as a trial nurse on studies exploring ketamine as an intervention for opioid use disorder (OUD).



DWAYNE ALLEYNE DNP, APRN, ACNP-C
BOARD CHAIR AT DNPS OF COLOR

Dwayne Alleyne, DNP, APRN, ACNP-C, is a Brooklyn, NY native and Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina College of Nursing. With over 20 years in nursing—12 as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner—he has served at Prisma Health and the Columbia VA Health Care System. As founder and Executive Director of the Capitol Nurse Practitioner Group, he leads one of South Carolina's largest NP organizations. He also serves as Board Chair and Program Director of "diMENSIONS in Nursing" at DNPs of Color, and is Member-at-Large for the South Carolina Nurses Association, advancing leadership and engagement across the profession.



RAVENNE APONTE, PHD(C), BSN, RN
HISTORIAN AT DNPS OF COLOR

Ravenne Aponte is a current doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing. In 2016, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies with a minor in Health Disparities. Her senior thesis focused on the racial identity development of Black college students. She then graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Duke University in 2017. Upon graduation, she began her career as a clinical nurse in the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Duke University Hospital. During her time as a staff nurse, she worked part-time as a registered nurse supervisor at a local home health agency in North Carolina and a pediatric clinical instructor at Duke University School of Nursing. Her varied educational, clinical, and life experiences contributed to her research interest in nursing history and workforce diversity.



ANYINKE ATABONG, DNP, PMHNP-BC, FNP-C
CO-CHAIR AT GLOBAL AFFAIRS DNPS OF COLOR

Anyinke Atabong, DNP, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC, is a nurse practitioner with over 20 years of experience in mental health and primary care. Co-founder of Capital Multi Health Group, she champions culturally sensitive care and reducing health disparities. Appointed by Governor Wes Moore as Commissioner of African Affairs for Maryland, she chairs the Health Committee. An adjunct professor at Coppin State University, Dr. Atabong holds degrees from Coppin State, the University of Cincinnati, and Duke University. She is passionate about mentoring nurses, advancing community outreach, and breaking mental health stigma. She serves with APNA, NPAM, and DNPs of Color as Global Affairs Chair.



TRACIE L. AUGUSTA PH.D, DNP, MSNED, ACNP/FNP- BC

Dr. Fred Reed, III, is a Nurse Anesthetist, Advanced Nurse Executive, Academic Nurse Educator, philanthropist, and business owner. He hails from Lake Providence, Louisiana, but has lived in the Memphis, Tennessee, metropolitan area since 2014.

Fred's emphatic passion for equitable advancement, mentorship, and philanthropy has driven all of his contributions to humanity and the fields of nursing and nurse anesthesiology. Fred earned a clinical Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from Union University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Louisiana State University. Dr. Reed has broken racial barriers and made history as the first and only African American male nurse anesthetist to practice anesthesia at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Holzer Medical System in southeast Ohio, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in Georgia. He is pursuing a PhD in Nursing at the University of Memphis, where his research focuses on diversity within nursing and health equity.



BRANDY BEAZLEY, DNP, RN, CNS

Brandy began her career in 2005 after completion of the first year of UCSF's MEPN program. From 2005-2009 she worked at UCSF Medical Center on a kidney, liver, and pancreas transplant unit while completing her master's degree in nursing. After 4 ½ years at the bedside, she began her journey as a nurse educator at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland, CA. She obtained her DNP in 2021 from Samuel Merritt University and continues to hold adjunct professor status with the university.

Brandy is currently a RN Regional Clinical Site Coordinator in the Kaiser Permanente National Nurse Residency Program and has become a Certified Caritas® Coach and is pursuing board certification in Nurse Coaching and Holistic Nursing.

She has a passion for supporting nursing students and transitioning nurses, community health, and supporting women with breastfeeding. She enjoys spending time with family, music, dancing, nature, and looking for hawks on light posts.



KINDRA BROOKS DNP(C), MSN, RN, PHN

Kindra Brooks began her nursing career after receiving her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis (UCD) and working as a Chemist for nine years. Driven by a deep commitment to improving patient care and supporting healthcare professionals, Kindra obtained a degree in vocational nursing and later an associate's in nursing.

Kindra has a background in trauma med-surg, telemetry, and neuro step-down nursing. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of San Francisco in 2019.

Kindra is a clinical instructor and course manager at Samuel Merritt University and is both a certified HeartMath™ Practitioner and a Certified Caritas® Coach. Currently pursuing her DNP, Kindra aims to develop comprehensive burnout resiliency programs to guide nurses in finding tools and strategies that will help them develop better versions of themselves.

Kindra is currently a Regional RN Site Coordinator for the Kaiser Permanente National Nurse Residency Program.



TIFFANY BROWN, DNP, MADD, BSN, FNP-BC, RN

Dr. Tiffany Brown is a practicing Nurse Practitioner twenty-four years of nursing experience specializing in Medical Oncology. She is an active member of the National Black Nurses Association and Treasurer of the Silicon Valley Black Nurses Association chapter.

As an African American woman, nurse, and prior student she has had personal experience with understanding the unique racial challenges throughout her nursing career. She has thus developed a passion for mentorship, addressing issues in DEI, and racism in nursing. These passions have led her to become a mentor, adjunct nursing professor, speaker, and podcaster. Tiffany has been able to find balance in her life through her personal mission statement:

"To celebrate and live my life fully, authentically and compassionately with a healthy dose of realism mixed with creativity, imagination and dreams that all things are possible with God if I set my mind to it and position myself to receive it."

Tiffany C. Brown, DNP, MADD, FNP-C, BSN, RN



KIM BYAS, PHD, MPH, FACHE

Kim Byas is the CEO of Leadership Lessons From, Inc., a non-profit focused on addressing health disparities and leadership development. He is also program director, Master of Science in Healthcare Leadership, Union Institute & University.

Dr. Byas has over 40 years of experience in healthcare leadership in various settings—including federal health policy, direct patient care, public health, health insurance, strategic consulting and higher education. Dr. Byas also conducts grounded theory research on leadership; and teaches healthcare ethics to Master of Business Administration degree students at Loyola University Chicago; healthcare policy to MHA students at Rush University, Chicago; and serves on various boards of not-for-profit organizations. Dr. Byas received his doctorate in ethical and creative leadership from Union Institute & University in Cincinnati, a Master in Public Health degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio. He is board certified in healthcare management as an ACHE Fellow.



SHELITHA R. CAMPBELL, DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP-BC, PHN

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR AT DNPS OF COLOR

Dr. Shelitha Campbell is an executive leader across academia, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors, championing equitable, quality healthcare through education, clinical excellence, and community advocacy. She inspires future healthcare leaders by equipping them with knowledge and skills for informed, transformative decision-making. As an advanced practice nurse, Dr. Campbell advocates for patient-centered care rooted in excellence and equity. Through accessible community education and outreach, she empowers individuals to control their health journeys.

Her mission centers on creating opportunities for holistic health and ensuring informed decision-making is accessible to all—fostering meaningful change for students, patients, families, and communities alike.



LUIS E. CASO VEGA MBA, BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, NE-BC, TCRN

Luis is an emergency nurse, health equity advocate, and proud member of the 2025 ENA 20 Under 40 class. A queer, Latino leader originally from Puerto Rico, Luis began his nursing career there before relocating to the mainland U.S. With over 13 years of experience, he is board-certified in emergency, pediatric emergency, trauma, and nurse executive leadership. Happily married to his husband Vicente—also an ER nurse—they both work as travel nurses serving Native American communities. Luis serves on national and regional JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) committees through organizations such as ENA, SIENNA, NAHN, and FNA, championing inclusive and equitable healthcare environments. He is currently completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice with a focus on LGBTQ+ health, alongside a Master of Science in Global Health and a Master of Arts in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. Passionate about education, policy, and community engagement, Luis leverages his lived experience and professional expertise to advance culturally affirming care in underserved communities.



NINA CHUNG

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, CSG

Nina Chung is an Associate Vice President, CSG at Fenton, drawing upon cross-sector experiences to provide strategic counsel to clients in corporate social good and global health. Prior to joining Fenton, Nina managed pandemic response communications for The Rockefeller Foundation, crafting strategies and coordinating partners to promote vaccine equity, research-based health messaging and initiatives against misinformation. She also managed announcements and strategic storytelling at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to celebrate and strengthen the fields of medical research, performing arts and environmental conservation.

Nina is dedicated to communications that serve the public interest and strives to build deep listening, questioning and collaboration in her work with partners and clients. She earned her master's degree in media and communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she published her dissertation on the surprising role of corporate public apologies in society.

She majored in international relations at Stanford University, minoring in modern languages and studying in South Korea and Italy.



JOY COLES, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, MBA, CCRN, HF-CERT, FHFS

Dr. Joy Coles, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, MBA, CCRN is an Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner currently working on the Advanced Heart Failure/Heart Transplant/Mechanical Circulatory Support team at the University of Kentucky (UK) Hospital and is a leader in the DNP Program at US World News Top Ranked HBCU Nursing School, Kentucky State University.

Dr. Coles received her first Bachelor of Science in Biomedical sciences from Wright State University in 2002 and worked in Clinical Research, contracted with Biopharma companies while acquiring her MBA. She received her second-degree BSN from the UK College of Nursing and became a lifelong UK Chellgren Honors Fellow. She worked many years as a CVICU RN before becoming an NP in Cardiology for almost a decade. She completed her post-Doctoral training in the Nursing Educator certificate program at the Johns Hopkins University and serves as a leader within the DNP Program at KYSU as subject matter expert in various courses, designing curriculum and leading the charge to grow and expand the program which graduates one of the largest cohorts of minority NPs in the Commonwealth of KY.

Dr. Coles is the current State of KY Liaison for AANP, DNPs of Color DEIAA Advocacy Committee, the Heart failure Society of America Early Career committee, Delta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing Board, and she has received numerous honors, awards including being a featured Provider in the UK Healthcare "Power of Advanced Medicine" We are Proof campaign, UK Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence, UK MAGNET Nurse of the Year 2017 and she has served as an executive board member on a variety of community organizations including the American Heart Association and is a current AHA Leader of Impact to be featured in Forbes Magazine this Winter 2024. Joy also serves on the State of KY Healthcare Workforce Collaborative Advisory Board and the Ethics & Human Rights Committee for KNA. She is a native Daytonian from Ohio and has resided in Lexington, KY for the past 20 years.



YVETTE CONYERS DNP, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CNE, CWCN-AP, FADLN
CO-CHAIR THE W.O.R.K. GROUP AT DNPS OF COLOR

Yvette Conyers, is the Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and an Assistant Professor. Dr. Conyers brings over a decade of experience as an advanced practice registered nurse and family nurse practitioner (FNP). As a Certified Foot and Wound Care advanced practice nurse, Dr. Conyers is particularly passionate about addressing healthcare disparities and reducing inequities in amputation rates, especially among people of color.

Dr. Conyers earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree and a Family Nurse Practitioner post-master's certificate from St. John Fisher College. She holds a master's in nursing education from Roberts Wesleyan College and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Rochester. She began her nursing career with an Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing from Monroe Community College in New York.



MARCIA DERBY-DAVIS, PHD, RN

Dr. Marcia Derby-Davis is a seasoned nurse educator with over 30 years of combined experience in nursing and nursing education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. In addition to her academic and clinical expertise, she is an entrepreneur and the founder of ZahariYAH Body Mind Spirit, an organization dedicated to empowering young professional Black women on their journey toward holistic well-being. Through transformative education, personalized guidance, and community support, ZahariYAH helps women embrace their full potential and lead purposeful, fulfilling lives.

The organization also offers individual and corporate wellness seminars, thoughtfully tailored to meet the unique needs of each client. Outside of her professional work, Dr. Derby-Davis enjoys playing tennis in her spare time.



RODNEY DUCKETT, DNP, APRN, FNP-C MODERATOR

Dr. Rodney L. Duckett is a family nurse practitioner with over two decades of healthcare experience and education. He holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice. He was widely praised in the Army for his innovative thinking in times of crisis. He continues to use this approach in his emergency care work and as a community advocate/steward with his nonprofit, IMPAC Outreach (Intelligent Minds Proving and Applying Commitment), which mentors adolescents exiting the juvenile justice system. Furthermore, Dr. Duckett has a strong interest in history, anthropology, and archaeology, which led him to pursue a degree in archaeology. His fervent ambition and adventurous nature drew him to three continents and sixteen countries to study alongside international scholars.



LAUREN EDGAR, DNP, MSN-ED, RN

Dr. Edgar is a highly accomplished nurse leader and researcher with over 18 years of experience, specializing in the implementation of decentralized clinical trials (DCTs) that enhancing access for underserved communities within the African diaspora. Her post doctoral research decisively focused on enhancing patient engagement through DCTs, effectively integrating technology and community-based approaches to eliminate access barriers in traditional clinical settings. Her experience includes leadership and mentorship roles as 2-Term Chapter President within National Black Nurse Association via the Southern Nevada Black Nurses Association, Post-Doc Research Fellow with NHGRI (NIH), Leadership Fellow with NIH AIM-AHEAD and Fellowship with Robert Wood Johnson's Culture of Health Leadership Institute for Racial Healing. Dr. Edgar's robust educational background fuels her innovative strategies in healthcare. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Aspen University, a Master of Science in Nursing from Grand Canyon University, and a Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner from Kaplan University.



ADRIAN ESPINOSA, MPH, MS, PHN, RN, FNP-BC
MODERATOR

Adrian is the proud son of Mexican immigrants. His parents began working in the agricultural workforce of the Salinas Valley in the late 70's, with the hope of providing both he and his sister an opportunity to excel in life and academia.

After graduating from the public school system, Adrian attended San Jose State University (SJSU), where he completed a B.A in Biology (2004) and subsequently a Master of Public Health (2007). He later returned to nursing school and trained as an advanced practice nurse at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) (2011-2015). While at UCSF, he was selected as one of the Madison Clinic Peggy Huang Diabetes Nurse Fellows in the School of Nursing. Adrian is president of the Supernova Foundation, a non-profit he co-founded sixteen years ago which focuses on survivors of domestic violence and awards scholarships to students. In 2019 he received the Signature Award for Service from Northern California's Kaiser Permanente Latinx Association (KPLA). In 2020, Adrian was recognized as a 2020 UCSF campaign Alumni Awardee in "The Pathfinders" category, as well as a "40 Under 40: Rising Nurse Leader" and completed a two-year term (2021-2023) as the UCSF Nursing Alumni Association President. Most recently, he co-founded the Society of Latinx Nurses (SOLN). In 2022 and is the inaugural president. SOLN is a national organization with a mission to increase diversity in the nursing workforce, while providing a safe space free of bullying and racism within the profession.



SHELDON FRETT, BS

Classically trained, Sheldon Frett has worked on stage in London, effortlessly crossing over into film and television. He started his acting career working opposite Academy Award Winner Viola Davis in the biopic, *Get On Up*, produced by Brian Grazer, starring the late Chadwick Boseman, becoming the first British Virgin Islands actor to star in a film.

Sheldon graduated from LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) with a Master's degree in Classical Acting. His American training includes The Method with Tony Greco in New York and training at the Ivana Chubbuck Studio located in Los Angeles.

In addition to his career as an actor and film producer, Sheldon is a highly sought after acting teacher. For over a decade, he has taught actors how to become better humans, leading them to successful film, television and stage careers.

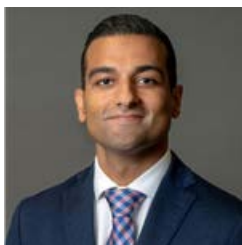


TAOFIKI GAFAR-SCHANER, MSN, RN

Working as a bedside nurse inspired Taofiki Gafar-Schaner to rethink how healthcare and technology intersect. Motivated by a passion to improve both patient care and provider experience, he co-founded Frontier Health & Resources with Joey Ferry. The company is committed to developing innovative products that patients will love and healthcare providers will find indispensable. Through this work, Taofiki is dedicated to driving meaningful change that enhances clinical workflows and advances the quality of care.

**TIFFANY GIBSON, MSN, RN**

Tiffany Gibson is on a mission to ignite a transformation in nursing—birthing a new nurse mindset rooted in intuition, emotional intelligence, and authenticity. As the founder of New Nurse Academy, she empowers nurse leaders to tap into their innate wisdom, refine their discernment, and make decisions that align with both their professional responsibilities and personal truth. Tiffany bridges authenticity and alignment within the nursing community, cultivating a space where self-love and holistic leadership are not optional, but essential.

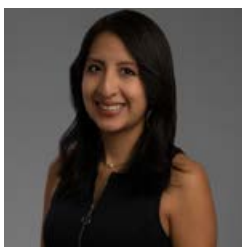
**JUSTIN GILL, DNP, APRN, RN**

Dr. Justin Gill is an advanced practice nurse and dedicated health policy advocate. As a clinician, he witnesses firsthand how government policies directly impact patient care and provider practice. He currently serves as President of the Washington State Nurses Association Board of Directors, where he champions the vital role of nurses in shaping healthcare policy. Dr. Gill believes all healthcare providers must have a seat at the policy table, as the issues affecting care transcend politics and partisanship. In addition to his clinical work, he leads advocacy efforts focused on advancing equitable, patient-centered care for communities across the nation.

**SHARON GOLDFARB, DNP, RN, FNP-BC**

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR AT DNPS OF COLOR

Dr. Sharon Goldfarb is a trailblazing nurse leader, educator, and health policy advisor with over two decades of experience advancing equitable health outcomes. She bridges clinical practice, higher education, and policy advocacy—from frontline HIV care and COVID-19 vaccination campaigns to advising elected officials and shaping legislation. Co-author of California Assembly Bill 2288 and advisor to Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, she contributes to national health equity campaigns. As former Dean of Health Sciences and current faculty, she founded DEI committees and developed innovative clinical training programs. Featured in NPR and The New York Times, Dr. Goldfarb is a nationally recognized voice on health equity, dedicated to translating scholarship and policy innovation into actionable solutions that strengthen healthcare and improve population health.

**MIMI GUIRACOCHA, DNP, RN**

BOARD MEMBER AT DNPS OF COLOR

Mimi Guiracocha, DNP, RN is a bilingual, bicultural Ecuadorian-American public health nurse and community organizer from Chicago. With over seven years of NICU experience as the only bilingual provider in a unit of 150, she witnessed the power of advocacy to transform care. Her doctoral work focused on improving identification and care of students with asthma in Chicago Public Schools. Now serving as National Director of Health Systems Improvement at the American Lung Association, she leads nationwide asthma initiatives. Mimi also serves on the boards of DNPs of Color and Rush Nurses Alumni Association, championing health equity, climate justice, and community voice.



LENDRA JAMES, DNP, MS, RN, NE-BC

Dr. Lendra James, is a nurse executive, AI consultant, and entrepreneur with nearly 25 years in her nursing career spanning bedside care, executive administration, and entrepreneurship. She is the founder of DLJames Consulting and Premier Infusions & Wellness, two ventures dedicated to transforming healthcare leadership and advancing wellness solutions for professionals and organizations. With a foundation in nursing leadership and a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Dr. Lendra is deeply committed to transforming lived experiences of systemic oppression into powerful platforms for change.

Dr. Lendra is the creator of the Health & Wealth Expo, author of *Confessions of a Nurse Executive: Conscious & Unconscious Bias in Healthcare*, and host of the *Nurses With Voices* podcast, an evolving conversation on burnout, bias, and now, the power of AI in reshaping healthcare careers. Her *Done-For-You Framework* helps nurses launch AI-powered businesses in 90 days, reclaiming time and agency through automation, strategy, and visibility.

A mentor with the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center and past speaker at the ALC 53 Congressional Black Caucus, Dr. Lendra uses her platform to advocate for equity, innovation, and healing leadership. At DNP's of Color, she brings a message of Power, Purpose, and Possibility, inviting fellow DNPs to harness their voice, value, and vision to lead systemic change from the inside out.



ANTOINE JOHNSON, PHD

Antoine S. Johnson, Ph.D. was born and raised in East Oakland, California. After graduating from Castlemont High School, he attended California State University, Sacramento where he earned his BA and MA in American History. His master's thesis examined rap music during hip hop's "golden era," from roughly 1987 to 1993, and how rappers utilized their platforms to raise awareness on issues in poor and working-class Black communities, situating themselves within the Black intellectual tradition. Interests in how Black people confronted the crack and AIDS epidemic led to him attending the University of California, San Francisco, where he earned his Ph.D. in the History of Health Sciences. Antoine's dissertation explores Black HIV/AIDS activism in the Bay Area, and he is currently working on the book manuscript for this project. Antoine spends his free time with his family, running, and researching and discussing football and hip-hop culture.



JANELLE JONES, DNP, PMHNP-BC

Dr. Janelle Jones, DNP, PMHNP-BC, is a faculty member at Emory University. Dr. Jones serves as the national Chair of the Psychiatric Special Interest Group for the NONPF. Prior to Emory, Dr. Jones was the inaugural PMHNP Program Director and Assistant Professor at St. Catherine University. Clinically, she has treated patients across the lifespan and currently serves as the Medical Director of a boutique mental health consultancy. Dr. Jones is a former SAMHSA Minority Fellow and MATEC Clinical Scholar. She is also a frequent keynote speaker on mental health, determinants of health, ACEs and trauma, stress management, and overall wellness. Her global nursing experience includes clinical and academic work in Guatemala, Abu Dhabi, and Sweden, where she co-published NIH-funded research.

Dr. Jones holds degrees from Howard, Johns Hopkins, Yale, and the University of Minnesota, and brings a unique background in investment banking and advertising, to her multifaceted career in healthcare.



THEO JONES, MSN, FNP-BC

Theo Jones Sr. is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner. He began his career as a registered nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital, serving in critical care units as well as trauma operating rooms.

After obtaining his master's degree in nursing from the Chamberlain College of Nursing, he received training in pediatrics from Cross Keys Pediatrics, in addition to training in internal medicine and family practice from Mercy Medical Center.

In 2018, Theo founded Weekend Whitecoat Direct Primary Care with the goal to build a personal and trusted relationship between patient and provider.

Weekend Whitecoat was born out of my frustration with the current healthcare system. While working as a Family Nurse Practitioner, both in hospitals and in private practices, things would change rapidly while faces changed even faster.



ALICIA KORPI ORTIZ, MPH

DUET

Alicia is Head of Value-Based Care at Duet, where she partners with Nurse Practitioner-led independent practices nationwide to build and scale sustainable primary care models. She specializes in designing and implementing clinical operations strategies that help practices thrive. With over 15 years of experience driving financial and clinical performance under alternative payment models, Alicia brings deep expertise in advancing innovative care delivery. She holds a Master of Public Health from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



EFRAAT LAMANDRÉ, PHD, FNP

MODERATOR

Dr. Efrat Lamandré is a national voice on medical gaslighting, speaking across the country to empower patients who are informed, science-savvy, yet overlooked by the healthcare system. As host of The Medical Disruptor podcast, she challenges conventional thinking, amplifies patient stories, and advocates for more responsive, transparent care. Dr. Lamandré delivers dynamic keynotes, panels, and conference sessions that inspire audiences to question the status quo and demand better outcomes. Her work bridges the gap between medical science and lived experience, equipping individuals and professionals alike to recognize systemic shortcomings and champion change in healthcare delivery.



MICHELLE LOCKETT, DNP, RN

Dr. Lockett is an accomplished nurse leader and educator with a distinguished record of mentorship and advocacy for marginalized communities. She currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at Villanova University, where she teaches in the pre-licensure BSN nursing programs. A passionate advocate for social justice, Dr. Lockett is a 2024 Fellow of the Golisano Institute for Disability Nursing. Her research focuses on the disparities in disciplinary practices affecting Black children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and the intersection of the Special Education and prison systems.



CHRISTINA M NYIRATI, PHD, RN

Dr. Christina Nyirati practiced for 30 years as a Family Nurse Practitioner serving underserved families in rural Ohio and urban Columbus. As founding FNP Program Director at The Ohio State University, she advanced interprofessional primary care models and guided rural clinics in transforming into patient-centered health homes.

Her career spans maternal-child health, women's health, and health equity. She co-founded Overdue Reckoning on Racism in Nursing, directed Heritage University's BSN program on the Yakama Reservation, and partnered with Native women at the Ttáwaxt Birth Justice Center. She continues her service on the Washington State Maternal Mortality Review Panel and in national leadership roles.



TIFFANY MARTIN

Tiffany K. Martin is an equity-minded thought leader, keynote speaker, author, and health equity advocate. She is Founder and Executive Director of Elevated Health and Community and Owner of TKMartin Consulting LLC. An ICF-certified Professional Coach (CPC/CLC) and Executive Change Strategist, she specializes in organizational culture, change management, strategic planning, professional development, and DEIB training. With 13 years as an FBI Special Agent and over 25 years spanning government, private industry, engineering, law enforcement, education, athletics, and health equity, she brings a "big picture" perspective. Martin is dedicated to fostering cultures where individuals feel valued, supported, and empowered to excel.



DANIELLE MCCAMEY, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FCCP, FADLN

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO OF DNPS OF COLOR

Dr. Danielle McCamey is a board-certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with over 20 years of nursing experience and more than a decade in advanced practice. Her clinical background includes perianesthesia, palliative, and critical care. She is Associate Dean for Clinical Partnerships and Innovation and Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. A Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and Academy of Diversity Leaders in Nursing, she is also the founder of DNPs of Color, a nonprofit advancing representation, leadership, and impact of DNP-prepared nurses of color worldwide.



ANGEL MCCULLOUGH, DNP, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, FACHE

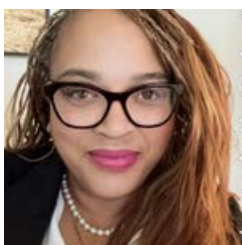
Dr. Angel McCullough is a seasoned healthcare executive with over 25 years of experience in transforming healthcare organizations and driving operational excellence. In her current role, she serves as the Chief Nursing Officer with Trinity Health System covering Nazareth Hospital and St. Mary Medical Center. Angel has been a speaker at numerous conferences and has contributed to industry publications, making significant strides in advancing the dialogue around the need for diversity in healthcare leadership. Angel is a published author of a chapter in *Empowering Women to Succeed: Leading with Impact*. She enjoys coaching and mentoring new and aspiring leaders to success.



ADRIENNE MCINTYRE, DNP, RNC-NIC, CNS

With over 20 years of dedicated experience in nursing, Dr Adrienne McIntyre is an accomplished healthcare leader with a dynamic career in advanced practice nursing, systems leadership, and large-scale implementation science. A passionate advocate for elevating nursing practice, Adrienne brings a unique blend of strategic planning, program design, and quality improvement expertise to every initiative. Adrienne began her nursing journey with her post bachelor's nursing certificate, followed by a Master's of Science in Advanced Practice Neonatal Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice. All from the University of California San Francisco.

With a proven track record in the execution of evidence-based programs, Adrienne is dedicated to fostering innovation in nursing practice while ensuring the continuous improvement of healthcare systems. Through human-centered leadership, strategic planning, and a focus on equity and performance improvement, Adrienne works to create sustainable, impactful change within healthcare organizations.



OTTAMISSIAH MOORE, BSN, RN, WCC, CHPN, END OF LIFE DOULA DNP-C BOARD MEMBER AT DNPS OF COLOR

Ottamissiah (Missy) Moore is a Registered Nurse who works in Washington, DC. Her nursing career spans over 38 years supporting nurses and the long-term care community. Missy spends her time supporting nursing organizations as a volunteer, traveling the country to support nurses with education that affects the aging population. Missy Currently works as a nurse educator at Bridgepoint Healthcare, and is the board president of the National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy



MAISA MORRAR, PA-C

Maisa Morrar is a Physician Associate with five years of experience in Urgent Care and Primary Care in Oakland, CA. A Bay Area native, she is also a committed activist and organizer. She co-founded the Palestinian Feminist Collective and Healthcare Workers for Palestine, and has long been deeply engaged in the Palestinian liberation movement within the Bay Area community. Through her work, Maisa strives to address health disparities, challenge the status quo, and amplify Palestinian narratives—bringing together healthcare, feminism, and community organizing in the pursuit of justice and liberation.



TIFFANY MORRIS, DNP, MS ED, MSN, CNE

Dr. Morris is the Director of Nursing for the School of Nursing at North Carolina A&T State University. She has achieved the National League for Nursing (NLN) designation as a Certified Nurse Educator. Dr. Tiffany Morris has 25 years of experience in academia and has been named the Clara Adams Ender Endowed Professor for the School of Nursing. She has worked in various educational settings including her previous role as the Inaugural Chair for Elon University's Nursing Program and the Dean of the Health and Human Sciences at Rockingham Community College. Dr. Morris is the past President of the Mu Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. She serves as the chair of the Reidsville Area Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Morris' research interests include creating effective engaging learning strategies to promote critical thinking and the impact of spiritual leadership on congregants' decision to use hospice care at the end of life.



MURIEL MOYO, DNP, MS, RN, CCRN, NE-BC, EBP-C

Muriel Moyo is an award-winning and nationally recognized nurse leader, honored as an AONL Young Professional Voices. As the Nurse Manager of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at UCI Health, she has spearheaded initiatives that enhanced nurse-sensitive quality indicators, led to significant cost savings from contract labor, reduced nurse turnover, and boosted staff engagement. Muriel played a pivotal role in the MICU achieving the AACN Gold-Level Beacon Award and the 2023 DAISY Team Award. A published author and speaker, she influences nursing excellence as an editorial board member for nursing journals. Additionally, she is a Nurse Executive board certification content expert and standard setter. Muriel's dedication and innovative approach continue to drive positive changes in healthcare.



MICHELLE NELSON, PHD, MS, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, FNAP, FADLN

Michelle A. Nelson, PhD, MS, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, FADLN is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Programs at Clayton State University School of Nursing. A Family Nurse Practitioner specializing in Anticoagulation, Dr. Nelson is a nationally recognized leader, health policy advocate, and educator dedicated to advancing full scope of practice for APRNs. She serves as AANP Region 11 Director, Senior Advisor to UAPRN of Georgia, and Commissioner for the Georgia Commission on Women. A Fellow of AANP, AAN, NAP, and NBNA's Academy of Diversity Leaders, she is a passionate voice for access, equity, and excellence in nursing.



DEVYN NIXON, MSN, FNP-BC

Devyn Nixon is a family and cardiovascular nurse practitioner at PeaceHealth and an assistant professor in nursing at Western Washington University. She teaches Social Justice and Health Care, U.S. Leadership and Health Policy, and Community-Based Care for Vulnerable Populations. Devyn serves on the Committee for Advocacy and Public Policy with AcademyHealth as well as the DNPs of Color Advocacy Committee. Devyn is a recipient of the 2024 AANP State of Excellence Award for Washington State. Devyn is on track to graduate from Johns Hopkins University with a Doctor of Nursing Practice and a Master of Public Health in May 2026. Her scholarship focuses on policy interventions for racial health equity. Her

doctoral project is titled 'Political Drivers of Mistrust and Black American Primary Care Utilization.



APRIL ODOM, DNP, FNP-BC

Dr. April Odom is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, healthcare entrepreneur, speaker, and founder of Physicals Plus, a nurse-led clinic integrating primary care, aesthetics, and preventive health. With over a decade in a large healthcare system, she experienced burnout and lack of autonomy—sparking her mission to empower nurse practitioners to thrive beyond traditional models.

Through consulting, speaking engagements, and NP-exclusive events, Dr. Odom provides strategy, structure, and support to help NPs launch practices, build leadership presence, and expand professional influence. Her work blends real-world business expertise with a passion for helping NPs own their seat at the table.



STEPHANIE OLASO

A registered nurse in New Jersey since 2013, Stephanie Olaso is a passionate advocate for the nursing profession and all those who have made it their life's work.

When she isn't in scrubs, Olaso – who holds a Master's in Health Communication and Information from Rutgers, enjoys snowboarding, weightlifting, playing video games, and getting her nails done. She believes that all people deserve high quality healthcare and is invested in promoting health equity and driving systemic change in the healthcare system. Nursing Insights is her debut as a podcast host.



ANGELA OMULEPU, MA, PHD(C)

REIKI TO THE PEOPLE

Angela Omulepu is a wellness consultant, healing practitioner and change-maker who facilitates personal, organizational and social healing through training programs and practices that start with the individual. Leveraging diverse healing modalities such as Reiki, Guided Imagery and Meditation, Ms. Omulepu offers 1-on-1 and group sessions to catalyze healing and growth within each individual with the conviction that that's where healing at the global level starts.

Ms. Omulepu has worked for more than twenty years as an artist and organizer, integrating social justice practice and creativity to help individuals and communities heal.



ABRIANA PETTIGREW, DNP(S), BSN, RN

Abriana Pettigrew, DNP-S, RN, BSN, a Doctor of Nursing Practice student with a clinical focus on venous thromboembolism (VTE) and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prevention through preventive care and targeted screening strategies.

Her work emphasizes improving early detection, enhancing health equity, and reducing DVT risk among underserved populations, particularly within African

American communities. I brings a strong foundation in evidence-based practice, clinical leadership, and health policy advocacy, and I am committed to advancing population health through innovative, community-focused interventions.



COURTNEY PLADSEN, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP
MODERATOR

Clinical leader focused on improving health equity nationally. Provider of trauma informed medical, mental health, and substance use treatment to under resourced communities, specifically people experiencing homelessness. Policy expert and advocate working on systemic solutions at the intersection of housing and health.



WUBIT RARU, MSN, FNP-BC

Wubit Raru, FNP-BC is a board-certified Nurse Practitioner with nearly a decade of experience in the healthcare field. She has a rich background working with diverse patient populations across various clinical settings, delivering evidence-based and holistic care to individuals of all ages.

Wubit is passionate about using evidence-based practices to enhance care coordination, guiding patients through every step from diagnosis to treatment and beyond. Her primary focus is on preventative measures and managing chronic conditions to avert complications.

Currently, she is pursuing her Doctorate in Nurse Practice at George Washington University, where she is engaged in a quality improvement study aimed at integrating technology into preventative care. This innovative project focuses on improving fluid and electrolyte intake among patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) by utilizing a mobile application. Wubit's commitment to improving the quality of care demonstrates her dedication to advancing health outcomes for her patients through the use of contemporary technology.



FRED REED, DNP, MBA, CRNA, NEA-BC, CNE

Dr. Fred Reed, III, is a Nurse Anesthetist, Advanced Nurse Executive, Academic Nurse Educator, philanthropist, and business owner. He hails from Lake Providence, Louisiana, but has lived in the Memphis, Tennessee, metropolitan area since 2014.

Fred's emphatic passion for equitable advancement, mentorship, and philanthropy has driven all of his contributions to humanity and the fields of nursing and nurse anesthesiology. Fred earned a clinical Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from Union University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Louisiana State University. Dr. Reed has broken racial barriers and made history as the first and only African American male nurse anesthetist to practice anesthesia at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Holzer Medical System in southeast Ohio, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in Georgia. He is pursuing a PhD in Nursing at the University of Memphis, where his research focuses on diversity within nursing and health equity.



ANTHONY RILEY-BARRETT

Anthony is a wealth management and tax strategy specialist with the Greater New York Branch of Equitable Advisors, where the mission is to provide superior financial guidance with the highest integrity. A graduate of Bloomfield College with a degree in Accounting and Finance, he is recognized as one of the firm's rising stars. Anthony assists clients with life insurance, retirement planning, investments, estate strategies, and business continuation plans, while mentoring and training new advisors. A proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., he serves on its community service committee and as a graduate advisor for younger fraternity members.



RACHEL ROBINSON, BSN, RN

Rachel Robinson, BSN, RN, is a DNP-FNP candidate at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with 20 years of nursing experience across community health, clinical quality, and acute progressive care settings. Her DNP project, Implementing Competency-Based Education and Simulation in Perineal Injury Management for Ghanaian Midwives, focuses on advancing maternal outcomes through global health equity. Passionate about addressing the Global Black Maternal Health Crisis, Rachel is deeply committed to ensuring all communities—particularly marginalized populations—have access to competent, compassionate, and culturally responsive care. Rachel is a wife and mother of two, residing in Delaware, and an avid DIYer.



ROBERTO ROMAN LAPORTE, PHD, DNP, RN, CMSRN, EBP-C POLICY & ADVOCACY CHAIR AT DNPS OF COLOR

Dr. Roberto Roman has served in healthcare for over 20 years. He has humble beginnings as an associate degree nurse from Miami Dade College. He earned his DNP from Johns Hopkins in 2018 and his PhD from the University of Miami. He holds speciality certification as a medical surgical registered nurse and is one of the first 40 people globally to be certified in the speciality area of evidenced-based practice. He currently is the Chief Innovation Officer at VitalBridge Health and Senior Vice President at International College of Health Sciences in Boynton Beach Florida. VitalBridge Health's mission is to disrupt healthcare and provide concierge service to the uninsured, underinsured and marginalized people of South Florida. Roberto is a nurse consultant, patient advocate, and servant leader.



KATY ROUNSAVILLE, MBA-HC, BSN, RN, CPHQ

Katy began her nursing career in 2003 as a student nurse intern at Valley Children's Hospital, focusing on Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and NICU. After graduating, she worked full-time in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Endocrinology, Nephrology, and Rheumatology.

In 2010, Katy became the first Hematology Oncology Research Nurse at her hospital, developing the program and training a multidisciplinary team. She joined Kaiser's National Transplant Services in 2012 as a Blood and Marrow Transplant Coordinator.

During the pandemic, Katy transitioned to Risk Management and Patient Safety Quality Nurse Consultant at Kaiser East Bay. She led initiatives to reduce falls and improve patient safety scores while simultaneously completing her master's in business administration with a Healthcare Management focus.

Katy currently serves as a Regional RN Clinical Coordinator with the Kaiser Permanente National Nurse Residency Program. In this role, she oversees the training and education of new graduate nurses in Northern California.



SARLA SANTOS, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN

Sarla Santos is a Director of Simulation and Assistant Professor at the Mount Sinai Phillips School of Nursing in East Harlem, New York. Dr. Santos is a certified nursing professional development specialist and a certified pediatric critical care nurse. She is deeply committed to improving the care of children and their families, from birth to adolescence, and educating future and current nurses. Dr. Santos is the lead faculty for the Pediatric/Maternal and Newborn Nursing course and the Director of Simulation. She is also Vice President of Sigma's Alpha Beta Mu Chapter and a new DNP. She looks forward to becoming an active member of the DNPs of Color.



JOANNA SELTZER URIBE, EDD, MSN, RN

CO FOUNDER OF NURSES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Joanna Seltzer Uribe is a registered nurse with a Master's in Nursing Informatics from New York University and a doctorate of education in organizational change from Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California.

Joanna spent half of her 20 year nursing career as a nurse coordinator and nurse informaticist at top-ranked kidney transplant programs in NY and NJ before she transitioned to academic roles at New York University's Rory Meyers College of Nursing, where she taught and developed one of the first design thinking courses for graduate and undergraduate nurses in the nation. Joanna was selected as one of 12 nurses from across the country for the inaugural cohort of the Johnson and Johnson Nurse Innovation Fellowship where she co-created the Nurses You Should Know project. She is currently a Senior User Experience Research Lead for improving clinical trial software. Her dissertation, published in 2022, is titled *White Nurses, White Spaces, and the Role of White Racial Identity in the American Nursing Profession*.



CHANEL THOMAS, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, RN-BC

Hi, I'm Chanel Thomas—a dog mom, anime and horror fan, and a dual board-certified nurse practitioner in psychiatric mental health and family practice. As a Black, queer, and neurodivergent provider, I bring lived experience and cultural humility to every client interaction.

Born and raised in Nashville in a multigenerational home, I witnessed the impacts of mental illness firsthand through loved ones living with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and autism—alongside deep distrust of the healthcare system. That

experience inspired my passion for psychiatric care rooted in compassion and advocacy.

I was diagnosed with ADHD in adulthood, after years of struggling in silence. That journey, combined with navigating a system that often feels dismissive and racist, drives me to offer clients a safer, more affirming space. I honor cultural identity, medication hesitancy, and the need for personalized, patient-centered care. My mission is to support healing that feels authentic, accessible, and deeply human.



EBONY THYME, MSN, FNP-C

Ebony Thyme is a Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner with four years of experience in practice predominantly doing locum work. She has worked with over 100 healthcare professionals who seek a particular interest in Locum Tenen's by teaching them the core foundations to regain flexibility and develop financial freedom through her courses, masterclasses, and webinars.

Ebony is also a travel enthusiast who uses travel as a driving force in the travel industry and health care industry. Ebony has traveled to over 30+ countries predominantly solo. She has been featured in Forbes, Business Insider, Goodmorning America, Essence, & The Washington Post for her work and dedication to the travel & healthcare industry.



BETH TONER, MSN, MJ, MFA, RN MODERATOR

Beth Toner, RN, MJ, MSN, MFA, is director of program communications at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She has more than 35 years of experience in marketing and corporate communications; she is also a registered nurse with clinical experience in long-term care and community health settings.

Toner holds an associate of applied science in nursing from Delaware County Community College, a bachelor's degree in communications from Messiah College, a master of journalism degree from Temple University, a master of science in nursing from Eastern Mennonite University, and a master of fine arts degree from Dominican University of California.

Born in Detroit, Toner currently lives in Pottstown, Pa., with her husband, Joe. She volunteers at a free clinic in West Chester, Pa. An avid trail racer, she has completed 30 marathons, five ultramarathons, more than 50 half marathons, and three sprint triathlons.



RACHEL TORRES, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CSN

Rachel J. Torres, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CSN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing at California State University East Bay where she teaches Community Health Nursing, Community Engagement, and Leadership and Innovation in Nursing. She is a nationally certified advanced public health nurse and a credentialed school nurse. Her areas of expertise include health policy, maternal-child health, leadership, and social justice. Dr. Torres earned a BSN from Hawaii

Pacific University, MS in Nursing Health Policy with a minor in Global Health from the University of California, San Francisco, and DNP from San Jose State University.

She has spent her career working in maternal, child, and adolescent health at the bedside, in the community, as a public health program manager, and as an educator. Dr. Torres was also a nurse in the US Army Reserves where she provided public health nursing and policy expertise in civil military affairs.



CLAIRE VALDERAMA-WALLACE, PHD, MPH, RN, PHN

Claire Valderama-Wallace (she) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing at California State University, East Bay, where she teaches Community Health Nursing, Community Engagement, and Epidemiology and Social Inequities.

She is the MSN Program Coordinator, co-chairs the department's Dismantling Racism in Nursing Education Task Force, and convenes the university's Indigenous Acknowledgement Collective. She serves on the National Advisory Council of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) and the editorial board of the journal Teaching and Learning in Nursing. A vision for internationalist anti-imperialist and anti-racist futures informs her efforts in teaching, scholarship, and organizing.



DANIELA VARGAS, MSN, MPH, MA- BIOETHICS, RN, PHN

Daniela Vargas, MSN, MPH, MA-Bioethics, RN, PHN, is a public health nurse whose work focuses on addressing racism in nursing, developing anti-racist practices, and creating programs that support Black, Brown, and Indigenous nursing students from matriculation to post-graduation. She serves as co-chair for the National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing and the 2025 Code of Ethics for Nurses Revision Panel. An inaugural member of the Society of Latinx Nurses (SOLN), Daniela earned her MSN/MPH from the University of San Francisco and MA in Bioethics from Loyola University Chicago. Based in the Bay Area, she provides reproductive justice-rooted care in the birthing community.



TYLER WAFER, BSN, RN

Tyler Wafer is a registered nurse from Washington DC, having practiced in emergency departments across the country for 10 years. He is currently pursuing his DNP-FNP degree from Johns Hopkins University with a focus in public policy and Queer health. He hopes to practice as an FNP providing care to the LGBTQIA+ community in the primary care setting. Additionally, Tyler plans to advocate for the community through a career focused on expanding healthcare access and decreasing health inequities.



HALIMA WALKER, HALIMA WALKER, MSN, RN, CCRN, NEA-BC

Halima Walker brings a diverse professional background in healthcare leadership, nursing, mentorship, and organizational development, with a strong passion for fostering high-performing, inclusive teams that drive excellence in healthcare. Currently, she serves as a Nurse Manager, where she leads interdisciplinary teams, drives quality improvement initiatives, and supports workforce development to enhance patient outcomes. Her experience spans crisis management, DEI leadership, and healthcare administration, with a focus on mentorship, professional development, and team-building strategies. She is also the co-creator of the Identity Empowerment RN Mentorship Program at UVA Health and the founder of the Heart and Vascular Health Equity Action Committee.



JANNAE WHITE, DNP

Dr. Jannae White has a heart for the community and believes in empowering individuals through health education. Dr. White received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Florida in 2018. She practices as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner in Baltimore, MD, at Ascension St. Agnes Heart Failure Center. She has a special interest in transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis, heart failure management and patient education. She has participated in several programs, initiatives and committees related to educating healthcare professionals, patients and the community about transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis. She is very proud to have been an active member of the National Black Nurses Association since 2011 and throughout the years has been a member of the local chapters of the Greater Gainesville Black Nurses Association, Central Florida Black Nurses Association and currently the Black Nurses of Southern Maryland.



MICHAEL WILLIAMS, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

MODERATOR AT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE DNPS OF COLOR

Dr. Michael Williams, a board-certified bilingual (English/Spanish) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, specializes in Internal Medicine and HIV-PrEP, providing care to diverse communities for over seven years. A first-generation college graduate of Panamanian descent, his New York City upbringing shaped his commitment to culturally informed care. Beyond clinical practice, he has taught at multiple institutions, co-founded an endowment scholarship for first-generation students, and serves on the boards of the Black Men's Health Clinic and DNPs of Color. Featured in the Wall Street Journal and Telemundo, he champions community engagement, believing improved health outcomes begin with education, empowerment, and meaningful relationships.



JANET WILLIAMS, DNP, MSM, CNM, FACNM

Dr. Janet A. Williams, MSM, CNM, FACNM, earned her Doctorate from Wilkes University and a Master's in Midwifery from SUNY Downstate. A board-certified nurse midwife, she has delivered over 900 babies, managing low- and high-risk pregnancies. Dr. Williams was a clinical instructor at Columbia University and is a Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. In 2023, she transitioned from clinical practice to consulting, focusing on transforming maternal health systems.

to improve care and reduce disparities. She is on the Board of Directors for the Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island Area Health Education Center and is the chair of the National Maternal Health Committee for Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. A sought-after speaker and trainer, she has been featured on national and international platforms.



AREON WILLIAMS, MSN, PHN, RN, NEA-BC

Areon serves as the co-chair of the We Belong Initiative, where she leads efforts to recruit and retain BIPOC nurses. She actively contributes to the UCSF Nursing Strategic Plan, striving to cultivate a workforce that reflects the diverse communities they serve. As a nurse leader of color, Areon is a dedicated advocate for equity and inclusion for BIPOC nurses.

She currently holds the position of Unit Director of the Resource Team at Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Additionally, Areon has presented her work from the We Belong Initiative nationwide, helping nursing leaders understand the value of diversity and its direct correlation with health equity and improved patient outcomes.

Education:

MSN, Nursing, California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA (2013)

BS, Physiology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA (2007)



STERLING WILMER, BSN, RN

Sterling is a Doctor of Nursing Practice student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, specializing in Psychiatric Mental Health and Nursing Education. A trauma-informed clinician with lived experience, published poet, and heartfelt speaker, Sterling loves to blend academic rigor, creative advocacy, and global service to the nursing profession. She holds degrees from NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and Texas State University, and currently serves in the Johns Hopkins Bayview Memory Clinic and Psychiatric ED.

Sterling's nursing inquiry and advocacy has earned her national and international recognition, including first-place awards from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and the International Society of Mental Health Nurses. She was a George Washington University Health Policy & Media Fellow and a Scholar(2023-2025) as well as in the Johns Hopkins Center for Nursing Inquiry Research Fellowship (2022–2023). Her mental health innovation, Helping Hands AI, was selected for the Johns Hopkins SPARK Student Accelerator in 2024, and her current doctoral work is over dementia caregiver burden in the outpatient clinic setting.

Sterling's mission is to expand mental health access through culturally responsive, tech-integrated, and justice-oriented care—amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities through policy, poetry, and practice.



ROBBIN YOUNG, DNP, RN

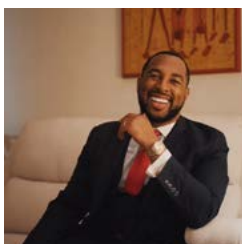
Robbin Young, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN, NE-BC, is Chief Nursing Officer at the University of Alabama with 23 years in healthcare, including 18 in critical care and 21 in leadership. Her career spans roles from bedside nurse to Director of Burn/Trauma ICU, Education, and Home Health. She earned her BSN from the University of Maryland, MSN in Healthcare Education, and DNP from Grand Canyon University, later completing a mini-MBA and Lean Six Sigma training. A national speaker and Sigma Theta Tau member, Robbin also volunteers through the Black Nurse Collaborative and mentors graduate students with DNPs of Color, advancing nursing practice and community health.



DJ HARVEY DENT

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With over 20 years of experience controlling the vibe in venues nationwide, DJ Harvey Dent brings a combination of multi-genre expertise with turntable dexterity to every event. Whether a Top 40 nightclub, lounge, Hip Hop concert, wedding, or a 70th birthday party, Harvey Dent brings the proper energy and professionalism for a sensational musical experience.



ELZIE ROSS

Elzie provides his clients with Financial Counseling as well as Insurance & Investment Strategies, which will help them navigate through the five key areas of Financial Planning. These areas consist of their Current Situation (analyzing budgets, cash reserves, and expendable income), Lifestyle Protection (insuring protection for their family, their income, and their health), Wealth Accumulation (implementing strategies to create and expand their wealth), Wealth Preservation (implementing and monitoring a retirement strategy tailored to their specific needs) and lastly Estate Planning (implementing tax reduction strategies and ensuring their legacy will be passed to future generations).



CHEF HAROLD VILLAROSA

Chef Harold Villarosa is a New York City-raised, Bronx-born chef whose cooking bridges Filipino heritage with global influences and a deep commitment to community. After honing his craft in some of the world's most respected kitchens, he returned his focus to creating food that is both soulful and accessible—connecting culture, storytelling, and sustainability. Through projects like The Peach in Oakland and past collaborations with institutions like Bon Appétit, he's built a reputation for bold flavors, open-fire cooking, and pushing the boundaries of Filipino and Southeast Asian cuisine. Beyond the kitchen, Chef Harold is dedicated to mentorship, food justice, and building pathways for the next generation of culinary leaders.



SARAH WARREN, BSN RN

Sarah is a Dominican-American registered nurse, writer & activist who uses storytelling across social media & creative mediums to help humanize care. Sarah explores healthcare and humanity through critical analysis of oppressive systems to challenge us to build a just world together. Her lived experience and background growing up in an immigrant household shapes how she navigates spaces with an intense sense of justice and desire for systemic change. She is the co-founder of 501c3 non-profit Don't Clock Out, a community organization dedicated to supporting healthcare workers through the impacts of moral distress.



QASIM ELLIS

Qasim Ellis is a trusted financial advisor with over a decade of experience helping individuals, families, and businesses make confident, informed financial decisions. He specializes in retirement planning, life insurance, business strategies, and tax strategies, serving a diverse clientele that includes professional athletes, entertainment professionals, medical professionals, and small business owners.

As a Managing Partner of The QAE Group, he provides clients with a hands-on, relationship-driven approach to achieving their financial goals. Known for breaking down complex financial concepts into clear, relatable terms, Qasim believes education is the cornerstone of financial empowerment. His philosophy—"If you are persistent, you will get it. If you are consistent, you will keep it"—guides both his practice and his clients' success. Dedicated to clarity, connection, and results, Qasim has earned a reputation as a trusted partner in the financial field.

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Roberta Waite,

EdD, RN, PMHCNS, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN

Dean, Berkley School of Nursing
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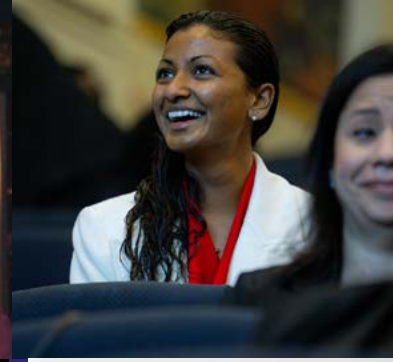
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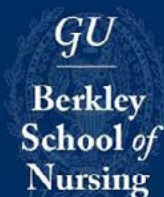


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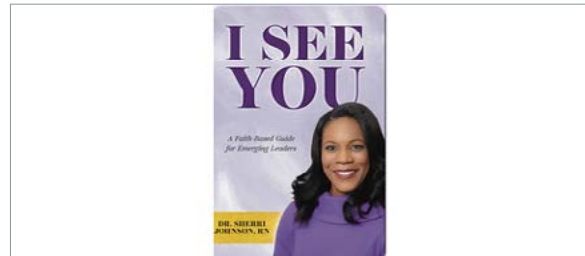
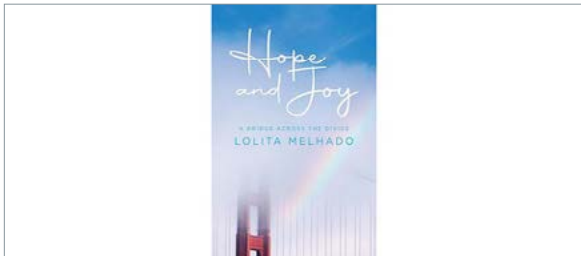
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