

Annual Leadership Symposium 2026 - The Power of Purpose: Transforming Challenges into Impact!

Event Agenda

Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 7:30am PT - 4:30pm PT

i All times listed in Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Saturday, February 21, 2026

7:00am - 7:45am

Check-in and Networking Breakfast

Check in, grab your badge, and connect with other attendees over coffee and light refreshments.

7:45am - 8:00am

Opening Remarks

Jose Chavez, DNP, RN, ACCNS-AG, CCRN, A.A.C.C., Chapter President

A warm welcome and overview of the conference goals and sessions.

8:00am - 9:00am

Keynote Address

Rebekah Marsh BSN, RN, CCRN Artist of Nursing, AACN President

1.0 CE Credit

In her AACN presidential address, Rebekah Marsh invites all nurses—at the bedside, in leadership, education, and beyond—to live and lead on purpose.

9:00am - 10:00am

The power of trust in supporting a Healthy Work Environment

Nancy Blake PhD, RN, CCRN-K, NHDP-BC, NEA-BC, FACHE, FAONL, FAAN

1.0 CE Credit

Dr. Nancy Blake explores how trust serves as the foundation of a healthy work environment. Through authentic communication and shared accountability, she highlights practical ways nurses can foster respect, collaboration, and resilience across teams.

10:00am - 10:30am

Break and Exhibit Hall Visit

Explore the Exhibit Hall to discover the latest nursing products, technologies, and resources. Connect with vendors, gather ideas for your practice, and learn about innovations that support a healthy work environment.

10:30am - 11:30am

Panel Discussion: Building and Sustaining a Strong Unit Culture

Moderator: Sandra Lee, MSN, RN, CCRN Panelists: Teri Loera, BSN, RN, NE-BC (CHLA) Vera Lopez, MSN, RN, PCCN (UCLA) TBD

1.0 CE Credit

This interactive session brings together nurse managers recognized by their staff as exceptional leaders and frontline nurses to collaborate on strategies for trust, teamwork, and a supportive work environment. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas, creating a conversation that benefits the entire team.

11:30am - 12:30pm

Lunch and Exhibit Hall Visit

Grab lunch while exploring the Exhibit Hall, connecting with colleagues, and discovering new nursing resources.

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Purpose in Practice: Charting your Nursing Journey with Intention

Anna Dermenchyan PhD, RN, CCRN, CPHQ

1.0 CE Credit

Bring your nursing career to life on purpose. Explore how aligning your values and goals can guide your daily practice, strengthen your impact, and inspire your professional growth.

1:30pm - 2:15pm

Three Wishes Program

Thanh Neville, MD, MSHS

0.75 CE Credits

Discover how the Three Wishes Program empowers nurses and care teams to create meaningful, memorable moments for patients and families, celebrating compassion, connection, and the human spirit.

2:15pm - 2:45pm

Exhibit Hall Visit

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Back to Our Roots: Rediscovering Humanity in the Age of AI

Dr Hassan Bencheqroun, MD, FCCP, MBA

1.25 CE Credits

AI and The Heart of Nursing Working Together to Enhance Care

4:00pm - 4:30pm

Closing Remarks and Evaluations