



NurseConnect | June 19, 2025 | 9th Edition

## UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's happening this [month](#)

## PATHWAYS TO NURSING

Find Your Guide: How to Connect with a Nursing Mentor

## STUDENT SUCCESS CORNER

Study & Sunshine: How to Thrive as a Nursing Student This Summer

## LAUNCHING YOUR CAREER

Blueprint for NCLEX Success: Your Study Partner with a Plan

## ADVANCED PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Nursing P.I.E.R. 2025: Shaping the Future of Nursing in Connecticut

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



Tina Loarte-Rodriguez, DNP, RN, CPPS, CPHRM, Executive Director, The Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce, Inc.

## Leading with Heart: Pride, Purpose & the Power of Care

As summer blooms, so too does our opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and recommit. June reminds us that our strength lies in our diversity, our teamwork, and our well-being. From honoring the trailblazers of Pride to uplifting the steady hands of CNAs, recognizing fathers in healthcare, and encouraging true self-care—this month is full of meaning.

June reminds us of the rich identities and roles that shape our healthcare community. This month, we celebrate Pride, Father's Day, and CNA Week—and recommit to the truth that caring for others begins with caring for ourselves.

## CT NURSING EVENTS & NEWS

Power in Progress: Elevating  
Minority Nurses Through  
Leadership & Scholarships

## "I AM A CT NURSE" CAMPAIGN

Call for CT Nurses to share about  
themselves

## STAY CONNECTED

Find links to the CCNW website  
and social media pages. Also,  
share feedback or submit ideas for  
newsletter

Pride Month honors the courage and brilliance of our  
LGBTQIA+ colleagues and patients. Their visibility  
strengthens our workforce and reminds us that inclusive  
care is essential to health equity.

Father's Day gives us a moment to recognize all who  
lead with quiet strength and fierce love. In a field often  
centered on maternal care, let's lift up the powerful role of  
fatherhood in healing.

CNA Week shines a light on the unsung heroes of daily  
care. Their compassion and commitment are the bedrock  
of safe, quality nursing. Thank them. Celebrate them.  
Invest in them.

As we face workforce challenges, let's not forget the  
human behind the badge. Fatigue is real. Burnout is  
widespread. That's why self-care must be non-  
negotiable. Step away when you need to. Say no when  
you must. Prioritize rest and joy.

At CCNW, we're building the future of nursing—one  
pathway, one partnership, and one person at a time. As  
we move into the second half of 2025, remember: you  
matter. Your well-being matters. And together, we'll  
continue to lead with heart—and with pride.

## PATHWAYS TO NURSING

### Find Your Guide: How to Connect with a Nursing Mentor

Starting a nursing journey—or leveling up in your career—can  
feel overwhelming without support. That's where mentorship  
comes in. A strong mentor can help you build confidence,  
navigate challenges, and turn ambition into action.

#### How to Ask Someone to Be Your Mentor

- Explore and evaluate your needs – Define what you want  
from mentorship.
- Identify potential mentors – Choose someone  
experienced, accessible, and aligned with your goals.
- Schedule an initial meeting – Propose a brief chat to  
explain your purpose.
- Prepare for that meeting – Bring goals and a resume. Ask  
focused questions.
- Ask for long-term mentorship – If it goes well, plan regular  
check-ins.
- Maintain the relationship – Review goals, maintain  
communication, and show gratitude



*A strong mentor can help you  
build confidence, navigate  
challenges, and turn ambition  
into action.*

## Study & Sunshine: How to Thrive as a Nursing Student This Summer

Being a student in the summer means embracing the hustle and the hammock. Try time-blocking your week to carve out dedicated study sessions early in the day, when your brain's fresh and the distractions are low. Then give yourself permission to log off and enjoy the sunshine—guilt-free.

Take advantage of lighter campus traffic to connect with professors, explore internship options, or schedule informational interviews. And don't sleep on self-care: hydration, movement, and mental health matter as much as your flashcards.

With a little planning, you can master your coursework and make summer memories. Because balance isn't just a buzzword—it's a survival skill for every future nurse.



*Summer's here—and while your friends may be heading to the beach, you might be juggling clinicals, classes, and NCLEX prep. But don't worry—you can still enjoy the season and stay on track.*

## LAUNCHING YOUR CAREER

### Blueprint for NCLEX Success: Your Study Partner with a Plan

The NCLEX is a major milestone—and choosing the right prep program can make all the difference. Look for courses that use evidence-based strategies like active recall, spaced repetition, and clinical scenarios. The best options balance structure and flexibility, offering tools like customizable calendars, Qbanks, and expert-led lessons.

Above all, choose a program that helps you think like a nurse—  
not just pass the test. That's the key to long-term success.



*Getting ready for the NCLEX? It takes more than memorization—it takes strategy, structure, and the right support.*

## ADVANCED PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

### Nursing P.I.E.R. 2025: Shaping the Future of Nursing in Connecticut

Sacred Heart University, in collaboration with Northwell/Nuvance and Dr. Jasper Tolarba, Endowed Chair of Practice, Innovation, Education and Research, invite you to the upcoming Nursing P.I.E.R. (Practice, Innovation, Education, and Research) Conference, to be held on **Monday, August 4, 2025, at The Center for Healthcare Education in Bridgeport, Connecticut from 8:30-4:30 PM.**



The theme of this year's conference is "Advancing the Profession of Nursing in Connecticut through Practice, Innovation, Education, and Research." This all-day event will bring together nurse leaders, educators, practitioners, researchers, and students across the region.

We intend to focus on an assessment of the progress made in meeting the objective for the Future of Nursing 2030 report in Connecticut. We are honored to welcome, Dr. Lynn Malerba, Chief of the Mohegan Tribe and former U.S. Treasurer, as our keynote speaker.

The day will include a CNE/CNO Panel that will spotlight leading nurse executives who are shaping the future of nursing through strategic leadership, systems thinking, and innovation. As a key nursing leader, your participation is especially valuable to this conversation, and we would be honored to feature your voice among this group of distinguished leaders.

[VISIT CONFERENCE WEBSITE](#)

*The Nursing P.I.E.R. Conference on Monday, August 4, 2025, in Bridgeport, CT is a powerful gathering of nurse leaders, educators, practitioners, and students united to advance nursing through Practice, Innovation, Education, and Research.*

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

### Future-Ready: How Tech Is Transforming Nursing Education

A recent survey by Wolters Kluwer Health and the National League for Nursing (NLN) reveals how nursing programs are embracing emerging tech to better prepare students for practice. Key findings from over 300 faculty and deans include:

- 💡 Generative AI (GenAI) is gaining momentum:
  - Only 17% of schools currently use GenAI
  - Nearly half plan to invest in GenAI within 2–5 years
  - Larger programs are leading in strategic planning
- 🕶️ Virtual reality (VR) is on the rise:
  - VR usage nearly doubled since 2020 (15% → 29%)
  - 53% of programs plan to implement VR in the next 2–3 years
  - 60% plan to increase current VR investments

Technology is becoming more and more important for nurse educators as we prepare our students for a practice-ready future. As AI and simulation evolve, so must our teaching strategies.



*Nursing programs across the country are leveling up—with AI and virtual reality leading the charge. A recent survey from Wolters Kluwer Health and the National League for Nursing reveals how faculty and deans are planning for a high-tech, practice-ready future. From generative AI to VR simulation, here's what's shaping the next generation of nurse education.*

## NURSING EVENTS &amp; NEWS

## Power in Progress: Elevating Minority Nurses Through Leadership & Scholarships

The New England Minority Nurse Leadership Conference (NEMNLC), a collaboration between eight New England Chapters of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc., National Association of Hispanic Nurses and the National Association of Nigerian Nurses of North America, introduced the NEMNL Scholarship Program in 2021.

NEMNL Scholarship Program was established to assist minority undergraduate and graduate nursing students, registered nurses and nurse leaders in achieving higher levels of education, professional success and enhance contributions to the profession of nursing and healthcare. Founded on the core principles of leadership and service to diverse underrepresented communities, scholarship awardees are recognized for their ability to make an impact in the nursing profession through leadership.

Scholarship applications are evaluated on the basis of academic achievement, leadership and service experience. Applicants must show a commitment to diversity in leadership and community healthcare impact in the New England Region.



connecticut nursing  
**NEWS & EVENTS**

*The New England Minority Nurse Leadership Conference is investing in the next generation of diverse nurse leaders through its impactful NEMNLC Scholarship Program, empowering students to lead and serve in healthcare.*

[CLICK TO VIEW | 2025 NURSING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

[VIEW ALL CCNW UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

## I AM A CT NURSE

### Call for CT Nurses to share about themselves

CCNW is proud to launch the “I Am a CT Nurse” campaign to recognize and celebrate the highly skilled nurses serving Connecticut communities every day. We invite all CT nurses to submit a short, 45–60 second video sharing your name, school and or organization, license, and what you love most about being a CT nurse. By participating, you’ll help shine a spotlight on the dedication, compassion, and expertise that define our state’s nursing profession.



To learn more about how to submit your video, visit our [website](#).

## LEARN HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO

Stay  
Connected  
With CCNW



### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take a few moments and share your feedback with us.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

### NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Like our newsletter? Share with your colleagues

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/s1/ZSZi4fe/newslettersignup>

### RECOMMENDED HASHTAGS

#CTNursingWorkforce  
#NursingExcellenceCT  
#ConnecticutNurses  
#CTNurseLeaders  
#CTNursingCommunity  
#HealthCareWorkforceCT

## CCNW WORKFORCE SUPPORTERS



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