



NurseConnect | January 29, 2026 | 15th Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's happening this month

PATHWAYS TO NURSING

Interested in Nursing? You Don't Have to Figure It Out Alone

STUDENT SUCCESS CORNER

As a nurse, your voice is one of the most trusted in the country; but is it being heard where the laws are actually made?

LAUNCHING YOUR CAREER

Connecticut Nursing Board Begins Updating RN Academic Regulations

ADVANCED PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Nursing Is a Professional Degree. Speak Up.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Your Voice Matters. Help Shape Nursing's Practice Standards



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

A New Year, A Renewed Commitment

2026 calls us to lead boldly, care deeply, and stand up for the safety, dignity, and justice every nurse and every community deserves.

As we step into 2026 with hope, resolve, and a shared commitment to strengthening our nursing workforce, I find myself reflecting on the dual realities that shape our profession and our world. Nurses everywhere are taking on pressing healthcare challenges with courage and compassion, yet we also witness heartbreaking events that remind us of the fragility of life and the urgent need for justice, equity, and peace.

CT NURSING EVENTS & NEWS

AORN Connecticut Chapter Annual Conference

"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

Today, our hearts are heavy as we honor the life of Alex Jeffrey Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse who served veterans at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System and was fatally shot by federal agents in Minneapolis on January 24, 2026. His family, friends, and colleagues remember him as a dedicated caregiver, deeply compassionate, and committed to helping others, a life lived in service to healing. By all witness accounts, he was documenting and seeking to de-escalate harm in his community when the tragedy occurred.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting have sparked national outcry, reigniting conversations about the use of force, the preservation of civil liberties, and the rights of peaceful observers, particularly in the context of law enforcement and public demonstrations. Many in the healthcare community and beyond are calling for transparency, accountability, and justice for Alex and for all who suffer unjust loss.

As nurses, we are trained to care for the whole person: body, mind, and dignity. When one of our own is taken under disputed and troubling circumstances, it reverberates far beyond a single community; it touches all who believe in justice as essential to health. In honoring Alex's memory, we recommit ourselves to the values that drew us to nursing: empathy, advocacy, service, and unwavering respect for human life.

Looking ahead, CCNW remains dedicated to advancing a nursing workforce that is resilient, diverse, and equipped to lead in turbulent times. In 2026 we will continue to:

- Expand educational and professional development opportunities for nurses at every stage of their careers.
- Support initiatives that address workforce shortages and strengthen nursing leadership across care settings.
- Champion policies that protect both nurses and the communities they serve, ensuring voices from the bedside inform decisions at every level.

Thank you for the work you do, at times, without recognition, always with purpose. May this new year bring renewed energy, deeper solidarity, and meaningful progress toward a future where every life, every nurse, and every patient is valued and protected.

PATHWAY TO NURSING

Interested in Nursing? You Don't Have to Figure It Out Alone

Thinking about nursing but not sure where to start or which program is right for you? That's completely normal. The good news is, you don't have to navigate it by yourself.

There are multiple ways into the profession, including an ADN, BSN, Accelerated BSN, or a Master's Entry program, depending on your goals, timeline, and previous education. Each path can lead to becoming a registered nurse. The key is choosing the one that fits your life, not just what sounds good on paper.

Get Personalized Guidance

Connecticut offers something many states don't, free, unbiased support through nursing mentors at the Connecticut Nursing Guide.

These mentors provide intentional, one-on-one advisement to help you:

- Choose the right education program for your goals
- Align school options with your financial and personal needs
- Understand prerequisites and requirements
- Access resources and supports that improve success and retention
- Make confident, informed decisions about your next step

It's real guidance from people who know the system and want you to succeed.

If you're even considering nursing, start here:

<https://www.ctnursingguide.com/>

Sometimes one conversation is all it takes to turn "maybe someday" into "I'm applying."

Your future is waiting for you.

CONSIDERING NURSING? START HERE

STUDENT SUCCESS CORNER

As a nurse, your voice is one of the most trusted in the country; but is it being heard where the laws are actually made?

For the second year in a row, ANA\California is partnering with the California Student Nurses Association (CNSA) for a massive, combined virtual event: RN Day at the Capitol & Pre-Licensure Lobby Day.

Whether you are a seasoned RN, an educator, or a student just starting out, this is your chance to get behind the curtain of California policy and help protect the future of our profession.

What's on the Agenda?

A packed program with high-impact sessions designed to give you the "advocacy toolkit" you need:



Explore your pathways and connect with a coach who can guide you.



ANA\California Political Action Day

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM PST

Where: Virtually via Webinar

Cost: FREE for all nursing students, educators, and practitioners.

- **Legislative Insider Briefing:** Get the scoop on priority bills and policy shifts directly from our CEO and licensed experts.
- **Media for Change:** Learn how to use social and traditional media to amplify your voice and drive policy change.
- **Building Bridges:** Connect with our future leaders at CNSA and strengthen our collective impact.

Why Attend?

Legislation and regulation move fast.

By showing up, you help advocate for safe staffing, workplace safety, and the removal of barriers to care. We aren't just talking about the future of nursing; we're building it.

LAUNCHING YOUR CAREER

Connecticut Nursing Board Begins Updating RN Academic Regulations

At its December 3, 2025 meeting, the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing took an important step to modernize how nursing education is regulated in the state. Board members recognized that portions of the current Registered Nurse academic regulations contain outdated language that needs to be brought into alignment with contemporary best practices and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) model rules.

Rather than requiring a change in state law, the Board confirmed that it can move forward with drafting updated regulatory language through its internal process. Volunteers from the Board will participate in the revision work, which will go through committee and full Board review before becoming final. This update aims to ensure that Connecticut's academic regulations reflect current nursing education standards and support quality preparation for future nurses.

In the same meeting, Julianne Avallone was introduced as the new legal counsel supporting the Board's work effective immediately, succeeding Deputy Legal Director Ryan Burns in that role. Chair Gina Reiners formally welcomed her and expressed appreciation for her collaboration as the Board advances regulatory updates.

Why this matters: Updated academic regulations can clarify expectations for nursing programs, strengthen alignment with national standards, and support high-quality education for all aspiring nurses in Connecticut.



Outdated language is being revised to reflect current practice and national best practices.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ADVANCED PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Nursing Is a Professional Degree. Speak Up.

A proposed U.S. Department of Education rule would exclude nursing from the definition of a “professional degree,” cutting federal loan eligibility for graduate nursing students to half of what medical students can borrow. At a time of workforce shortages, this could make MSN, DNP, and APRN pathways harder to access and weaken the pipeline of advanced practice nurses.

Nursing is the backbone of healthcare. Our education should be funded like it.

Join 245,258 advocates already taking action. Add your name and help protect nurses’ access to federal loans.



*Nursing education is on the line,
and now is the time to speak up.*

SIGN THE PETITION

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Your Voice Matters. Help Shape Nursing’s Practice Standards

The American Nurses Association (ANA) seeks public comment on the draft of Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 5th Edition. Please use [this link](#) to provide feedback. The deadline for comments is Thursday, February 19, at 5 p.m. ET.

ANA seeks feedback and welcomes the insights offered. Use this opportunity to contribute your comments and suggestions. We seek a broad range of input so please share this announcement with colleagues, students, healthcare consumers, and other interested persons, members, and non-members. Please note that the ANA Board of Directors has not yet considered this document.

Please provide your response for each section in the survey boxes indicated. When providing your feedback, please identify the line number(s) associated with your comment(s). If you need to save your responses and return to the survey at a later time, select that option at the top right corner of the survey page and provide your preferred email.



*Public comment is now open on
the draft Nursing: Scope and
Standards of Practice, 5th Edition.
Review it and weigh in.*

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT

NURSING EVENTS & NEWS

Periop ConneCT

October 16-17, 2026 | Hartford, CT

The 2026 Periop ConneCT conference will be held October 16-17, 2026 at the Conference Center at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. Join perioperative professionals throughout Connecticut and the Northeast for CE-accredited education, exhibits with leading vendors, and great networking events.

AORNCT.NURSINGNETWORK.COM

AORN Connecticut Chapter Annual Conference

Passionate about perioperative education? Have a research study or EBP/QI project to share? Using new surgical techniques or tools?

Share your expertise at Periop ConneCT on October 16-17, 2026 in Hartford, CT.

AORN CT is looking for speakers for 45 minutes - 1 hours sessions.

Submit your presentation proposal by 2/28/2026.



connecticut nursing
NEWS & EVENTS

Call for Speakers

[SPEAKER PROPOSAL APPLICATION | APPLY HERE](#)

[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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