



**MaryEllen (Mel) Hope Kosturko, DNP, MAHSM, R.N., CENP
Executive Vice President and System Chief Nursing Officer
Hartford HealthCare**

Dr. MaryEllen (Mel) Hope Kosturko is the Executive Vice President and System Chief Nursing Officer for Hartford HealthCare (HHC). Highly regarded, Dr. Kosturko has served in various strategic leadership, operational, and clinical nursing roles. She has driven significant results as an energetic, dynamic, and inspiring Healthcare Executive with over 30 years of experience and an unwavering passion for the education and advancement of the nursing profession.

In a previous role in CT, where Dr. Kosturko served as SVP and Chief Nursing Officer at Yale New Haven Health/Bridgeport Hospital for decades, she oversaw an accredited diploma school of Nursing with Surgical Technology and Central Sterile Processing Programs for ten years before closing the school and assisting a local community CT University in opening a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. She then assisted a second local CT University in opening another Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (University of Bridgeport/Goodwin and Eastern CT State University).

In her current role, Dr. Kosturko oversees the delivery of exceptional-quality inpatient and outpatient nursing services and patient care across the State of CT throughout Hartford HealthCare, with all seven (7) HHC acute care inpatient hospitals receiving LeapFrog 'A' quality scores. Dr. Kosturko is a passionate patient and nurse advocate focusing on strategically building a *Center for Nursing Excellence*. The Center is elevating and transforming nursing professional practice, research, and innovation, nursing practice standardization, nursing governance, workforce planning inclusive of leadership growth, development, mentoring and coaching, and program development to enhance the retention and recruitment of the nursing workforce. The Center also focuses strategically on the patient and colleague experience, quality and safety outcomes, and the financial management of clinical operations.

In addition to a Bachelor of Science degree from Fairfield University, she holds a Master of Arts in Health Systems Management from Sacred Heart University's College of Business and a Doctor of Nursing Practice focused on Healthcare Leadership, Systems, and Policy from Yale University. Her statistically significant doctoral project work focused on Retention of the Newly Licensed Registered Nursing Workforce Post Coronavirus (COVID-19): Establishing a Trauma-Informed Wellness Program, *The Registered Nurse Residency Script for the Future (RNRx)*(©MHK2022).

Dr. Kosturko is an Alumni Fellow of the Academy of GE Health Management Program for Nurse Executives, a member of Sigma Theta Tau's International Honor Society (of Nursing's Delta Mu Chapter), a national thought leader, and as such, has been a podium speaker internationally, nationally, and locally along with being published. Dr. Kosturko is a Volunteer Ambassador with AARPs National Center for Health Equity through Nursing (A-CHEN). She is a proven, influential nurse leader committed to leveraging her role to influence change in the complex systems in which she works and beyond.

A community leader, Dr. Kosturko is a member of multiple national and local associations and serves on numerous CT university nursing advisory committees. She is a proud lifelong native of Connecticut.