



Nursing the Future: Leading with Purpose and Clarity in Uncertain Times

Speaker: Jennifer Mensik Kennedy

Friday, November 21, 2025 • 9:00 - 10:15 am

Session Description

As seismic forces roil the healthcare system, nurse leaders have a clear mandate to improve the work environment for nurses, promote equity and engagement, facilitate human flourishing and advance the nursing profession. This talk will address these items.

Learning Objectives

- Learn how successful leaders use systems thinking to solve challenges and exploit opportunities
- Nurses are natural leaders; understand that we have the power to take ownership & be the change we desire
- Learn to embrace innovation and change so we can thrive forward

Meet the Presenter

Jennifer S. Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN is the President of the American Nurses Association (ANA). In this national leadership role, Mensik Kennedy boldly advocates for the nation's 5.5 million RNs. In 2023, she was named by Modern Healthcare as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare and in 2024, named one of the 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives.

Mensik Kennedy is a sought-after presenter and prolific author based on her insights about and experience involving key nursing issues. Her books include *Lead, Drive, and Thrive in the System*, 2nd edition, and *The Nurse Manager's Guide to Innovative Staffing*, 3rd edition. She co-authored *Lead like a Nurse, A Nurse's Step-By-Step Guide to Transitioning to the Professional Nurse Role*, and *The Power of Ten*, 2nd edition, and contributed a chapter to *The Career Handoff: A Healthcare Leader's Guide to Knowledge & Wisdom Transfer across Generations*.

Prior to her presidency, Mensik Kennedy held key leadership positions within the nursing profession, including serving the American Nurses Association as Treasurer, Second Vice President, and Director-at-Large. She also served as President of the Arizona Nurses Association from 2007 to 2010. Additionally, Mensik Kennedy held the role of governor of nursing practice for the Western Institute of Nursing in 2010-2014.

Mensik Kennedy earned a PhD from the University of Arizona College of Nursing with a focus on health systems and a minor in public administration from the Eller College of Management. She holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix and a BSN from Washington State University. Mensik Kennedy also earned an ADN from Wenatchee Valley College-North. She is an assistant clinical professor at the Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing. Mensik Kennedy was inducted in 2014 as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She has been recognized as Alumna of the Year by both University of Arizona College of Nursing and Washington State University College of Nursing.