

Jennifer Mensik Kennedy

“Leading the Profession Forward:

Brief Description and Background: ANA works to advance the nursing profession, establishing priorities to address workforce challenges that impact nurses, patients and the health care delivery system. To truly advance the profession, it’s critical to examine the issues and priorities along with the current state of the profession and where nursing is going.



Key Takeaways:

- Understand pathways forward out of COVID-19.
- Learn about the importance of elevating the value of the profession and reimbursement for nursing care.
- Know about key nursing advocacy and congressional legislation to support nurses.
- Elevate their consciousness around racism in nursing and diversity, equity, and inclusion within the nursing profession.

Biography: Jennifer S. Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, is currently an assistant professor at the Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing in Portland Oregon. Mensik Kennedy is a sought-after presenter and prolific author. Her books include Lead, Drive, and Thrive in the System and The Nurse Managers Guide to Innovative Staffing 2nd ed. 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 (Second Edition) and contributed a chapter to the book The Career Handoff: A Healthcare Leader’s Guide to Knowledge & Wisdom Transfer across Generations.

Mensik Kennedy has held numerous high-profile leadership positions within the nursing profession. She served as President of the Arizona Nurses Association 2007-2010. Nationally, Mensik Kennedy has served as Treasurer, Second Vice President, and Director-at-Large on the American Nurses Association board of directors. Additionally, she 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. Mensik Kennedy's MBA degree is from the University of Phoenix, while her BSN degree is from Washington State University. She also holds an ADN degree from Wenatchee Valley College-North. Mensik Kennedy was inducted as a fellow to the American Academy of Nursing in 2014.