

*The Inaugural California Chapters of
The National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference*

September 13, 2025

Hyatt Place, Fresno, CA





Mission:

NAHN is committed to advancing the health in Hispanic communities and to lead, promote, and advocate the educational, professional, and leadership opportunities for Hispanic nurses.

Message from the Organizers



The San Joaquin Chapter dissolved in 2019, and through my doctoral project and the guidance of my mentors, we concluded that this must never occur again within our California chapters. With seven chapters statewide our responsibility is to remain united, support one another, and safeguard the strength of our nonprofit organization. Despite being home to the largest Hispanic nursing population, the Central Valley had no representation until two years ago, when we founded Central Valley NAHN. Today, we stand as the second largest Hispanic Nursing group in California, after Los Angeles,

Johanna Velazquez, DNP, FNP-C, PHN, RN



I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you to the Inaugural California Chapters of NAHN! We have put a lot of thought and effort into creating this conference, especially at a time when advocacy and leadership are more critical than ever in California healthcare.

Over the next few hours, we will be diving into some key themes that are of utmost importance for our communities, including health equity, access to care, and the impact of climate change on farmworkers. I am thrilled about the rich conversations, meaningful connections, and innovative ideas that will emerge from the first-of-kind event.

Kimberly Kebelbeck , MBA, RN, BSN, CDCES



We are honored to welcome you to the inaugural California Chapters of NAHN Conference. The vision of uniting all the California Chapters of NAHN was first planted many years ago. Yet it wasn't until HHPS 2024 that this idea began to take root in a meaningful way. Now, just 18 months later, we proudly stand together united, representing more than 592-chapter members across the state.

This milestone is a powerful testament to what we can accomplish through unity, collaboration, and shared purpose. Together, we continue to fulfill our mission and strengthen our organization for the future.

Rubi Alva de Hickson, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN, PHN

*Seven California Chapters of the
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
Inaugural Conference
Fresno, CA - September 13, 2025*

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Thank You

Thank you to the NAHN Central Valley Chapter for hosting the Inaugural California Chapters of NAHN Conference! We appreciate your hard work to make this event a success.



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Promoting Hispanic Nurses to Improve the Health of Our Communities

September 13, 2025

Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN), it is my great honor and privilege to welcome you to the Inaugural California State Conference. Today marks a historic milestone as our California chapters unite to create a powerful platform for learning, collaboration, and leadership in nursing.

This conference represents more than an exchange of ideas - it embodies our shared commitment to advancing health equity, fostering professional growth, and strengthening the voice of Hispanic nurses across our state and beyond. Through collective action, innovation, and advocacy, we continue to pave the way for healthier communities and a more inclusive healthcare system.

I am inspired by the dedication and passion of our California chapters, whose vision and leadership made this gathering possible. Together, we stand on the shoulders of trailblazers who came before us, and we carry forward their legacy by empowering the next generation of nurses to lead, innovate, and transform care.

Thank you for being part of this historic moment. I look forward to an engaging and inspiring conference that will leave us energized and ready to advance NAHN's mission together. ¡Juntos Podemos!

With gratitude and excitement,

Veronica Vital, PhD, MLS, RN
President National Association of Hispanic Nurses
Lexington, KY, USA



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National Association of Hispanic Nurses

Promoting Hispanic Nurses to Improve the Health of Our Communities

August 12, 2025

Esteemed Colleagues of the NAHN California Chapters,

What an exciting and inspiring moment this is for NAHN California—and I dare say, for NAHN as a whole!

It is with great admiration and respect that I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. Your dedication, vision, and collaborative spirit in coming together across chapters to plan the 2025 Annual Conference is truly commendable. This collective effort is a testament to the strength and unity of our members and our shared commitment to advancing the mission of NAHN.

I am absolutely thrilled and deeply honored to join you for this inaugural event, an occasion that is more than a conference; it is a milestone. It highlights the power of unity, vision, and action, and demonstrates what is possible when we collaborate with purpose and lead with innovation. By joining forces, you have created something truly extraordinary, a model of excellence in partnership, innovation, and community building that I believe will set the gold standard for all NAHN chapters to follow as a strategic best practice for years to come.

As your peer, I am inspired by your example and energized by the possibilities ahead because this initiative speaks directly to one of my priorities, to increase collaborations amongst regional chapters. Together, you are helping to shape the future of *our* NAHN and amplifying the impact in the communities we serve.

Here's to a groundbreaking conference and the many achievements still to come!
With sincere appreciation and great anticipation,

With pride and anticipation,

Grace Grau, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, CRNP, AACC, FAAN
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**The Inaugural California Chapters of NAHN Conference
September 13, 2025**

Conference Agenda

7:30 - 8:30 AM Registration & Breakfast

8:30 – 8:40 AM Opening: Parade of CA Chapters

Ivan Zygarewicz team – Mexica Dancers

8:40 - 9:10 AM **Welcome Address**

Dra Veronica Vital, PhD, MLS, RN

President, National Association of Hispanic Nurses

Dra Grace Grau, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, AACC, FAAN

President-Elect, National Association of Hispanic Nurses

Paul Chavez - Cesar Chavez Foundation

Welcome Videos: California Senator: Anna Caballero

California Assemblymember: Dr. Joaquin Arambula

09:10 – 09:50 AM **Keynote Address**

Dra. Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth, PhD, RN, PHN, WAN

Title: Con Corazon y Coraje: Staying Centered as a Latina Nurse Leader During Challenging Times

9:50 – 10:00 AM **Break**

10:00 – 10:40 AM **Featured Speaker**

Katrina “Kat” Ascencio-Holmes, RN, CNOR, BSN, MHA

Title: Leadership in Healthcare

10:40 – 10:50 AM **Featured Poet**

Aideed Medina

10:50- 11:40 AM **Featured Speaker**

Dra. Mechelle Perea Ryan, PhD, FNP-BC, PHN

Title: Educating for Equity: How Nursing Education Opens Doors and Improves Care in Communities of Color

11:40-12:20

Featured Speaker

Dra Kathleen Rindahl, DNP, FNP-C

Title: “Caring for the Migrant Community: Nursing Perspectives on Health in Fresno County: Promoting Equity, Access, and Culturally Responsive Care”

12:20 – 2:00 PM

Lunch – Provided by Samuel Merritt University

- New CV NAHN Board members,
- CVNAHN scholarship recipients announced
- Chapter Baskets, Book Baskets, Raffles, Latrinas in Nursing Books, etc.
- Visit sponsor booths

2:00 – 2:50 PM

Featured Speaker

Jennifferre Mancillas BSN, RN, RNC-NIC

Title: *Culturally Sensitive AI: The Role of Hispanic Nurses in Shaping an Equitable Healthcare Future*

2:50– 3:30 PM

Panel Discussion: Minority Nurses of Fresno

Dra. Johanna Velazquez, DNP, FNP-C, PHN, RN

Black Nurses Association: *Keisha Lewis-Nesbitt, MSN/ED, PHN, RN*

Hmong Nurses Association: *Mai Yer Vang, BSN, RN*

Indian Nurses Association: *Amy Grewal, BSN, RN*

Philippine Nurses Association: *Nancy Nolasco Hoff, MSN, RN*

Central Valley NAHN: *Adriana Nole, BSN, RN*

3:30-3:45 PM

Break

3:45– 4:30 PM

Featured Speaker

Dra. Rubi Alva de Hickson, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, CCRN, PHN

Title: *Advancing Health Equity Through Policy: Advocacy Strategies for Building Bridges, Leading Change, and Achieving Impact*

4:30-4:40 PM

Folkloric Dancers

4:30 -4:40 PM

Closing Remarks

Keynote: Dra. Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth, PhD, RN, PHN, WAN



Dr. Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth is a Latina registered nurse and health services researcher with 24 years of experience working in safety net communities across Southern California. Her work explores patient-provider trust building among nurses and physicians who reflect the communities they serve. Inventor of The Burnout Dyad, Dr. Martinez-Hollingsworth uses novel, art-based and mixed-method approaches to uncover critical provider needs to support the healthcare workforce. She has been a member of NAHN since 2014, currently serves on the Board of Directors for her local NAHN chapter in Los Angeles, and is a member of the National Board of Directors for NAHN.

Title: “*Con Corazon y Coraje: Staying Centered as a Latina Nurse Leader During Challenging Times*”

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the unique challenges Latina nurse leaders face in today’s healthcare environment.
- Identify strategies for sustaining resilience, cultural identity, and professional integrity in leadership roles.
- Reflect on the role of emotional intelligence and cultural strength in leadership development.

Featured Speaker: Katrina “Kat” Ascenio-Holmes, CNOR, BSN, MHA



Katrina (Kat) Ascenio-Holmes is the Chief Nurse Officer at Sutter Health, bringing over 30 years of leadership experience in healthcare. She has played a key role in launching surgery centers and hospitals, driven by a deep commitment to enhancing patient care and empowering healthcare professionals through education and development. Her nursing career is rooted in a strong family tradition, and she continues to advocate for excellence in clinical practice.

Title: *Leadership in Nursing*

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze opportunities for Latinx/Hispanic nurses to lead healthcare transformation through policy and leadership roles.
- Discuss the integration of social justice and culturally responsive care into nursing practice and systems change.
- Evaluate current barriers and strategies to increasing Latinx representation in healthcare leadership.

Featured Speaker: Mechelle Perea-Ryan, PhD, FNP-BC, RN-PBC



Dra. Perea-Ryan has spent over 30 years serving Hispanic cannery and farm workers in California's underserved Central Valley, first as a nurse and later as a Family Nurse Practitioner. As a professor at Stanislaus State, she leads curriculum development, creates internship opportunities, and teaches courses on topics such as Health Disparities and Transcultural Nursing. Her research centers on reducing health disparities among farm workers and promoting the inclusion of social and environmental determinants in healthcare, education, and policy.

Title: *"Educating for Equity: How Nursing Education Opens Doors and Improves Care in Communities of Color"*

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the importance of racial and ethnic concordance in nursing.
- Explain how becoming a nurse can increase social and economic mobility for people of color.
- Describe academic pathways available to become a nurse, from entry-level programs to advanced practice.

Featured Speaker: Jennifferre Mancillas, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC



Jennifferre is the co-founder and COO of ADNI, a healthcare startup built to make life easier for frontline clinicians and healthcare employers. A former NICU nurse with more than a decade of bedside experience, she brings practical insight to designing tools and resources that uplift clinician well-being and career growth; she is also a Johnson & Johnson Nursing Innovation Fellow and the San Joaquin Valley Nursing Leadership Coalition's 2021 Nurse of the Year for Innovation in Clinical Practice. The first Hispanic nurse to have a company backed by Silicon Valley's Y Combinator, she speaks on healthcare innovation and equity and proudly advocates for the people who keep our health system running.

Title: *"Culturally Sensitive AI: The Role of Hispanic Nurses in Shaping an Equitable Healthcare Future"*

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the role of innovative tools—including artificial intelligence (AI) and culturally relevant resources—in supporting Latinx nursing students and professionals.
- Describe the process of creating tailored nursing resources that promote identity, confidence, and success in diverse communities using digital platforms and AI-enhanced solutions.
- Identify entrepreneurial strategies, including the integration of AI, that support nurse-led innovation in education, clinical practice, and community engagement.

Panel Discussion: Minority Nurses of Fresno



Dra. Johanna Velazquez, DNP, FNP-C, PHN, RN

Moderator



Amy Grewal, BSN, RN

Indian Nurses Association



Nancy Nolasco Hoff, MSN, RN

Philippine Nurses Association



Adriana Nole, BSN, RN

Central Valley NAHN



Mai Yer Vang, BSN, RN

Hmong Nurses Association



Keisha Lewis-Nesbitt, MSN/ED, PHN, RN

Black Nurses Association

Featured Speaker: Dra Kathleen Rindahl



Dra. Rindahl is an Assistant Professor and Chair of the School of Nursing at Fresno State University. A U.S. Navy veteran and former hospital corpsman, her military service on a Rapid Medical Deployment Force ignited her lifelong passion for community health. Before transitioning to academia, Dra Rindahl spent a decade as a Migrant Health and Public Health Nurse with the Fresno County Office of Education, delivering care to rural communities from a 60-foot mobile health trailer. In 2015, she founded Fresno State's Mobile Health Program, which continues to provide essential healthcare services to underserved populations across the region.

Title: *“Caring for the Migrant Community: Nursing Perspectives on Health in Fresno County: Promoting Equity, Access, and Culturally Responsive Care”*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the demographic and health characteristics of the migrant population in Fresno County.
- Identify common health challenges and barriers to care faced by migrant workers.
- Apply strategies to improve health outcomes through culturally competent, accessible care.

Featured Speaker: Dra Rubi Alva de Hickson, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC



Dra. Hickson is a Critical Care Nurse Practitioner at the University of California, San Francisco, and a passionate DEI Champion, committed to advancing workplace diversity, provider concordance, and advancing the nurse role across California. She is a vocal proponent of political engagement in nursing and leads policy reform efforts at the local, state, and national levels. Dra. Hickson is particularly recognized for her legislative advocacy around the need for accurate Spanish translation of the Nurse Practitioner title. She serves on several boards, including the NAHN National Board of Directors as Policy and Advocacy Chair, and is the incoming President of the San Francisco Bay Area NAHN Chapter.

At UCSF, she chairs the APP Advisory Board, representing over 1,100 Advanced Practice Providers. She serves on the California Association for Nurse Practitioners' Health Policy & Practice Committee and as Co-Legislative Chair for the SF Bay Area CANP Chapter.

Title: *“Advancing Health Equity Through Policy: Advocacy Strategies for Building Bridges, Leading Change, and Achieving Impact”*.

Learning Objectives:

- Define the nurse's role in shaping public policy to advance health equity.
- Analyze effective advocacy strategies for influencing healthcare legislation and institutional change.
- Identify tools and coalitions that support Latinx nurse advocacy and leadership at local, state, and national levels.

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Thank you to the generosity of all who made this event possible.

We want to thank _____