

8:00 am - Noon	Check In	Boardroom			
Noon - 2:00 pm	Lunch & Keynote	Grand Ballroom			
	Speaker	Dr. Jacquelyn McMillian Bohler, Duke University			
	Title	<i>Closer Than They Appear: A Personal Reflection on the Power of Small Moments in Coaching and Teaching</i>			
	Description	We often measure success by major outcomes, but our true evolution happens in the margins. In this session, Dr. McMillian-Bohler reflects on the unexpected conversations and quiet realizations that have defined her path as a teacher and coach. Drawing on the metaphor of the rearview mirror, she examines how looking back reveals the true weight of moments that felt insignificant in the moment. Join her for an honest exploration of how these "small" experiences can strengthen your coaching practice, empower your students, and refine your professional identity.			
Breakout Sessions		Oak Room I	Oak Room II	Camellia	Terrace I & II
2:00 - 2:50 pm	Session 1				
	Title	<i>Revisiting the Online Discussion Forum: Improving Competencies of Divergent Critical Thinking Among College Students</i>	<i>The Active Learning Cycle: A Reimagining of the Study Cycle</i>	<i>Ignite Emotional Intelligence: A Comprehensive Framework for Developing Emotional Intelligence in Nursing Students</i>	<i>Supporting Nursing Student Success After Academic Failure: A Structured Planning Approach</i>
	Speaker	Dr. Angela Keith	Val Wiemeyer and Susan Ferrone	Dr. Bridgette Bryan	Dr. Janeen Amason and Dr. Sarah Caffrey
	Description	How do we foster scholarly growth when students are never in the same room? The answer lies in the design. Join us as we deconstruct an asynchronous nursing course built on the principles of Divergent CT. This session provides a deep dive into the practical components of the curriculum, highlighting how to scaffold collaborative problem-solving and engagement. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of how to apply divergent principles to their own course design to promote active, scholarly inquiry in an online format.	How can faculty and support teams align to turn struggling students into self-regulated learners? This session offers a deep dive into embedding metacognitive "checkpoints" into classroom instruction. By focusing on the preparation, engagement, and review phases, we demonstrate how to move students away from passive memorization and toward active mastery. We will share proven methods for integrating academic support into the instructional flow to boost retention and exam scores in high-stakes	Emotional intelligence is an essential component of student success, influencing self-awareness, decision-making, and interpersonal relationships. This session explores common barriers that hinder emotional intelligence development among college students and highlights key dispositions frequently observed in today's learners. Participants will gain practical strategies to help foster emotional intelligence growth and support students in developing the skills needed to succeed academically and personally.	This presentation describes a structured, student-centered readmission and success planning model implemented in a large undergraduate nursing program.
3:00 - 3:50 pm	Session 2				
	Title	<i>Servant Leadership in Action: Advancing Student Success in Undergraduate Nursing</i>	<i>Teaching Wellness Before Crisis: Stress First Aid as a Model for Nursing Student Resilience</i>	<i>From Overstimulated to Organized: A Mental Health Approach to Effective Time Management</i>	<i>Navigating Time Management Challenges in Online RN-BSN Programs</i>
	Speaker	Rebecca Cannon	Jaque Williams	Dr. Skylar Couch	Dr. Amy Curtis
	Description	This session explores the relationship between servant leadership practices and student success within undergraduate nursing programs. Participants will learn how faculty, program directors, and academic leaders can apply servant leadership principles to strengthen psychological safety, increase engagement, enhance academic performance, and boost overall retention.	Nursing school shouldn't be a war of attrition. This session introduces the science of early stress recognition and its direct impact on student persistence. We unveil a comprehensive implementation plan for bringing Stress First Aid (SFA) into nursing programs, moving from "crisis response" to "proactive resilience." Learn how to use the Stress Continuum to identify "at-risk" moments and implement the Seven Cs to keep students connected, competent, and confident. Elevate your retention strategy by teaching students to manage their stress with the same precision they use for their patients.	Why do some students "freeze" when faced with a heavy clinical week? This presentation dives deep into the intersection of mental health and academic organization. We will identify how stress-induced executive dysfunction and emotional dysregulation lead to a breakdown in task completion. Moving beyond basic time-blocking, we introduce three evidence-based interventions specifically designed for the "overwhelmed" nursing student. You will leave with a practical framework for integrating mental-health-informed strategies into your coaching practice, helping students regain control of their schedules by first gaining	This presentation explores evidence-informed academic coaching strategies to help online RN-BSN students overcome time management challenges. We highlight common barriers and share actionable solutions, including technology integration, personalized coaching interventions, and strengthened support systems designed to drive student success.
3:50 - 4:10 pm	Break with Exhibitors	Legacy Ballroom			

4:10 - 5:00 pm	Session 3			ATI	PERRLA
	Title	<i>Brainstorming Session - Student Success Job Descriptions</i>	Active Learning Strategies for Large Classrooms: Creating Community and Supporting Learners	Empowering Student Advisors: Leveraging AI and Data for Better Student Outcomes	<i>Helping Students Succeed with APA Formatting</i>
	Speaker	Kendall Henderson	Beth Hultquist	Michelle Wallace, EdD, MSN, RN	Graysen Pack
	Description	The academic support role or student coaching role is new to nursing education. Come meet, brainstorm and network with others to help with writing a job description and defining the role in your institution.	Learn strategies to build community in large classrooms through active learning. Classroom management techniques can start the process and by being intentional about teaching, learning, and assessing we can help students feel supported.	This professional development session will explore key student data sources and how they can be used to predict academic outcomes and support student progression within nursing programs. Participants will engage in collaborative discussion on effective advising and remediation strategies, with attention to leveraging AI-enabled tools to enhance student engagement, strengthen knowledge acquisition, and promote student success.	Nursing students face enough challenges without getting derailed by APA formatting errors. Join us for a live demo of PERRLA – the tool that handles formatting automatically – and discover how it helps students stay focused on their work while giving faculty time back in the grading process.
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Welcome Reception with Exhibitors & Poster Presentations	Pre-Function Foyer & Legacy Ballroom			
2026 NCNAC Conference					
Saturday, March 28, 2026					
6:45 - 7:15 am	Walking Groups	AUHCC Lobby - LAUREN STRAND			
7:30 am - 4:00 pm	Exhibit Hall	Legacy Ballroom			
7:30 - 8:45 am	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom			
	Breakout Sessions	Oak Room I	Oak Room II	Camellia	Terrace I & II
9:00 - 9:50 am	Session 4				
	Title	<i>Implementation of an Inaugural Accelerated Remediation PathoPharmacology Course for Unsuccessful Students</i>	<i>The Power of Sound</i>	<i>Building the Foundation First: A Three-Unit Early-Curriculum Model to Support Success, Sustainability, and Student Well-Being</i>	<i>Academic Support as a Wellness and Resilience Strategy</i>
	Speaker	Dr. Andrea Alexander	Jacque Williams	Ashley Durham	Kate Turpin
	Description	Standard remediation often fails because it offers more of the same. To break the cycle of failure in Pathopharmacology, we need a radical redesign. This session provides a "behind-the-scenes" look at the planning and implementation of a specialized remedial track designed specifically for students at risk. We'll discuss how to identify the "why" behind student struggles, implement evidence-based interventions, and create a roadmap that fosters both content mastery and professional confidence.	As student stress levels reach an all-time high, educators need science-backed tools that fit into an already crowded curriculum. This presentation outlines a practical framework for using sound therapy to enhance academic performance and cognitive endurance. We will provide a step-by-step guide to implementation—from selecting evidence-informed soundscapes to measuring their impact on student retention and exam performance. Attendees will leave with a toolkit for creating a high-performance learning environment that supports both mental well-being and scholarly rigor.	Success isn't accidental; it's engineered. This presentation reveals a practical framework for a first-semester success course designed to stabilize the "undergraduate shock." By introducing nursing-specific thinking models early and prioritizing mental well-being, this course sets the stage for long-term licensure readiness. We will share the implementation strategies, student outcomes, and "survival skills" that have proven effective in turning apprehensive beginners into confident, clinical-ready scholars.	How do we use data to drive connection rather than just compliance? This presentation outlines a dual-track approach to student success that pairs formal monitoring tools with intentional relational strategies. We will break down the "Belonging Blueprint," identifying how mentorship and coaching act as buffers against academic stress. Participants will compare the outcomes of remediation-focused vs. wellness-centered models and learn how to pair risk assessments with personalized outreach. The session concludes with a hands-on program evaluation, helping you identify one high-leverage change to strengthen your students' sense of belonging.

10 - 10:50 am	Break with Exhibitors	Legacy Ballroom			
10:30 - 11:20 am	Session 5				
	Title	<i>Unplugged and Engaged: Enhancing Nursing Students' Wellness and Communication Through a Tech-Free Clinical Experience</i>	<i>Understanding Today's Nursing Students: Generational Differences, Work-Life Balance, and Strategies for Student Success</i>	<i>Confidence Before Clinical: Using an Early Obstetric and Pediatric Skills Day to Improve Anxiety and Clinical Preparedness in Undergraduate Nursing Education</i>	<i>Beyond the Flashcards: A 3-Part Study Workshop</i>
	Speaker	Dr. Laura Butler and Megan Whitney	Amanda Mehlhaff	Brooke Freeman	Dr. Donna Guerra
	Description	Constant connectivity is the "new normal" for nursing students—but at what cost to their mental health? This session reveals the results of a unique clinical experience where students went 100% tech-free for six days at a special needs camp. We'll discuss how "disconnecting to reconnect" lowered student stress and sharpened their emotional resilience. Learn how removing the digital barrier can transform communication and provide a much-needed blueprint for student well-being in the digital age.	Today's nursing students are not the same learners many faculty were trained to teach. Generational shifts, evolving expectations, and increasing life responsibilities have transformed how students engage with learning and balance school, work, and personal demands. This interactive session explores generational differences among nursing students and how these differences influence motivation, engagement, and academic preparation. Participants will examine the concept of work-life blend, explore evidence-based strategies to support modern learners, and discuss how competency-based education and active learning approaches align with the evolving needs of today's students. Through case-based scenarios and facilitated discussion, attendees will analyze common student situations and consider how faculty responses can promote student success, resilience, and professional growth. Participants will leave with practical strategies to adapt teaching approaches while maintaining high expectations for future nurses.	How do we maximize the limited clinical hours in specialty rotations? By ensuring students aren't learning basic skills at the patient's bedside. This presentation outlines the design and implementation of an "Early Skills Day" embedded in the first week of the Preconception through Adolescence course. We'll discuss the logistics of front-loading foundational specialty knowledge, the measurable reduction in student anxiety, and the framework for promoting immediate "specialty readiness." Participants will leave with a toolkit for implementing their own specialty skills intensive.	Traditional study methods aren't enough for today's nursing curriculum. This session highlights a growing workshop initiative that meets first-semester students where they are. From mastering complex reading strategies to maximizing online academic resources, we share a framework for periodic engagement that prevents student burnout and boosts resource ROI. Learn how to turn "underutilized" tools into "essential" assets for student retention and success.
11:20 - 12:10 pm	Session 6			Pearson Education	
	Title	<i>Student Anxiety from a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (and faculty) Perspective</i>	<i>Elevating Academic Outcomes Through a Structured, Metacognition-Driven Nursing Student Success Model</i>	<i>Reducing Cognitive Overload in RN Nursing Students</i>	<i>The Lived Experience of New Graduates Transitioning Through the NCLEX</i>
	Speaker	Dr. Andrea Alexander	Dr. Veronica Eubank	Dr. Leigh Bolton	Dr. Kristie Harrison
	Description	Join this session to explore the distinction between situational stress and clinical anxiety. Learn evidence-based coaching strategies for test anxiety and time management, and identify critical "red flag" symptoms to ensure timely, professional mental health referrals.	Move beyond remediation and toward transformation. This session outlines the evaluation of a comprehensive Student Success Course that targets the root causes of academic struggle: poor metacognition and weak critical thinking. Learn how this multi-faceted approach helps at-risk nursing students regain their footing, improve their study effectiveness, and ultimately survive and thrive in a rigorous curriculum. We provide the data, the design, and the "lessons learned" from this high-impact intervention.	Nursing students and faculty have countless resources existing across different platforms which makes learning and teaching feel fragmented and overwhelming. Course materials are often inconsistently formatted, overly dense, and disconnected from clinical realities. Join this session to learn how Pearson has reimaged the learning into a consistent, interactive experience spanning the RN program. Built into a single digital platform and instructionally designed with cognitive load theory and experiential learning as guiding principles. Pearson Interactive Nursing fosters active engagement, clinical judgment, and practical skill development. Creating a consistent framework across courses and transforming dense, complex text into manageable content with varied media and engaging patient experiences reduces	Graduation is just the beginning of a high-pressure sprint. This session explores the lived experience of new nurses as they transition from the classroom to the testing center. We examine the preparation habits, the emotional stressors, and the "room where it happens", the NCLEX experience itself. Discover what your graduates aren't telling you about their journey and learn how we can better bridge the gap between nursing student and licensed professional.
12:10 - 1:30 pm	Lunch On Your Own				

1:30 - 2:20 pm	Session 7			SPIN Learning	
	Title	Beyond ChatGPT: What Nursing Students Are Actually Using and How Coaches Can Guide Ethical, Effective AI Adoption	Fostering Belonging: Academic Coaching as a Pathway to Retention and Success	Retain More Students: The SPIN Learning Difference	From Memorization to Immersion: Coaching Nursing Students to Use AI and Learning Sciences for Clinical Judgment
	Speaker	Angelina Hardiesty-Kelley	Dr. Brandon P. Haskins	Bradley Creel	Quiana Jenkins
	Description	Stop guessing and start guiding. This session explores the generative AI landscape through the eyes of the nursing student. We identify the specific products students are adopting and address the critical concerns of misinformation and academic integrity. Designed specifically for academic success coaches, this presentation provides actionable strategies for embedding AI literacy into every coaching session. Learn how to lead the conversation and help students use technology strategically, not just as a shortcut.	Rigorous academics are only half the battle; the other half is belonging. This session explores how intentional involvement—grounded in proven educational theory—fuels student achievement and professional growth. We'll discuss how to build peer networks and mentorship models that sharpen leadership and cultural competence. Learn how to design a "connected" curriculum that fosters student persistence and prepares nursing graduates to lead with confidence in a complex global healthcare landscape.	Attendees will explore how SPIN's evidence-based resources, powered by predictive technology, help identify at-risk students earlier, boost engagement, and build the confidence students need to persist from enrollment to licensure. Whether you're looking to strengthen your existing support systems or explore new approaches, this overview will show you how the SPIN Learning difference can directly translate into better outcomes for your students.	You already know how to coach a struggling student. But do you know how to coach them through AI? This session gives you a concrete framework for repositioning AI as a coaching tool—one that develops metacognition, builds clinical reasoning, and actually sticks. You'll walk away with a coaching approach grounded in learning science that you can drop into your very next appointment. No vague theory. No tech overwhelm. Just a sharper, more
2:30 - 3:20 pm	Session 8				
	Title	Leveraging a Holistic Academic-Practice Partnership Model for Nursing Student Success	Brainstorming Session: Student Success Research	Bridging the Gap: A Collaborative Model for Reintegrating Students into Nursing Programs	Nursing Your Nerves: Getting to the Source of Test Anxiety
	Speaker	Dr. Lisa Jones	Rebecca Cannon	Dr. Elizabeth Parker	Kendall Henderson
	Description	Social determinants of health, such as financial strain, transportation issues, childcare needs, and basic resource insecurity, often hinder nursing students' academic and clinical success. An academic-practice partnership supports these students through tuition scholarships and targeted assistance for SDOH-related needs. Academic coaches identify concerns and coordinate timely support. This holistic model improves stability, engagement, confidence, and readiness for clinical learning, demonstrating how addressing non-academic barriers strengthens nursing student success.	Come and share ideas about current research and find collaborators on future research. Rebecca will explain her current research interest and answer questions. Network for colleagues interested in similar research trajectories.	Delayed progression shouldn't mean a diminished career. This presentation outlines a high-impact, interdisciplinary course that moves beyond simple "self-care" buzzwords to provide tangible wellness practices. We will share a practical framework for reinforcing fragmented clinical skills while simultaneously teaching evidence-based emotional regulation and learning strategies. Attendees will learn how to foster a culture of inclusion that counteracts the isolation often felt by returning students, providing them with a concrete roadmap for academic and professional recovery.	Test anxiety is often assumed to harm nursing student exam performance, yet the relationship may be more complex. This session examines how test anxiety relates to coping behaviors, sleep, and exam outcomes among undergraduate nursing students. Findings reveal that anxiety itself was not associated with exam scores but was strongly linked to maladaptive coping strategies among highly anxious students. The session will discuss practical strategies educators can use to reduce negative coping behaviors and better support student well-being in high-stakes testing environments.
3:20 - 3:45 pm	Break with Exhibitors	Legacy Ballroom			
3:45 - 4:35 pm	Session 9				
	Title	Amplifying Student Voices: Leveraging Podcasting to Support Nursing Student Success	Frontloading and Unpacking Objectives: A Metacognitive Self-Learning Strategy	Popcorn and Purpose: A Creative Approach to Foster Resilience and Model Authentic Leadership	Brainstorming Session - Student Panel
	Speaker	Amanda Mehlhaff	Lucas Wiester	Isabell Stoltz	Kendall Henderson
	Description	How can a podcast improve retention? By normalizing the student experience and providing support that never expires. This session outlines a student success podcast initiative designed to reach undergraduate nurses across multiple campuses. We'll explore how on-demand audio content addresses psychosocial barriers, promotes a sense of belonging, and keeps students engaged with their program. Discover how to leverage the power of "the voice" to create a community of support that students can take with them anywhere.	Many students arrive in nursing school with strong memories but weak schemas. This session tackles the "memorization trap" by introducing simple, high-impact metacognitive learning strategies. We'll explore the power of Front-Loading and other self-learning techniques that shift the responsibility of learning back to the student. Discover how to help your students stop relying on your slides and start building their own foundations for deep, application-based understanding. Turn your learners into independent scholars who are ready for the rigor of the modern nursing classroom.	Move beyond traditional curricula to address the emotional fatigue and imposter syndrome of the modern nursing student. This session introduces a unique assignment that uses the documentary 5B as a catalyst for peer emotional support and leadership growth. Through five targeted discussion modules, students disclose and reframe their anxieties using authentic nursing history as a mirror. Explore how "film-narrative reframing" creates a cohesive bond among students and prepares them to enact advocacy and moral courage in their own clinical practice.	Meet some Auburn University Nursing students and find out what students value in an Nursing Academic Coach.

4:45 PM					
Tour of Auburn's School of Nursing					
2026 NCNAC Conference					
Sunday, March 29, 2026					
6:45 - 7:15 am					
Walking Groups		AUHCC Lobby - LAUREN STRAND			
7:30 am - Noon					
Exhibit Hall		Legacy Ballroom			
7:30 - 8:45 am					
Breakfast		Grand Ballroom			
Breakout Sessions					
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9:00 - 9:50 am					
Session 10					
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10:00 - 10:50 am	Session 11			HURST	
	Title	<i>Redefining Successful Nursing Academic Coaching: Findings from a Scoping Review</i>		<i>Proactive by Design: Empowering NCLEX Success Using AI Insights to Identify Risks Early and Reduce Faculty Overload</i>	Student Success Coaching Model in Nursing Education: A Model at Southeastern Louisiana University
	Speaker	Dr. Suzanne Sutton		Annette Rigby MSN, RN	Rebecca Cannon
	Description	It's time to standardize success. This session leverages findings from a rigorous scoping review of U.S. prelicensure academic support to provide a roadmap for the future of nursing coaching. We will highlight practical, coach-informed strategies for tracking participation and measuring outcomes that traditional metrics miss. Discover how you can help shape a more consistent, meaningful definition of student success that reflects the true complexity of the nursing journey.		Today's nursing programs must do more than prepare students for graduation — they must prepare them for safe practice and Next Generation NCLEX® success from the first semester forward. This session demonstrates how intentional clinical judgment development, Hurst's AI insights, and intelligent technology can work together to strengthen outcomes and reduce faculty workload. Learn practical strategies for identifying struggling students early and replacing manual spreadsheets and remediation tracking with Hurst's streamlined Educator dashboard. Attendees will leave with a roadmap for building a program that is data-informed, NCLEX®-aligned, and designed to support both student success and educator well-being.	Success coaching is more than just a meeting, it's a strategy. We're sharing the results and the "how-to" of Southeastern Louisiana University's recent student success coaching pilot, and we want your input. Come explore the components of our model and stay for a high-energy discussion on what works (and what doesn't) in student support. This session is designed for practitioners who want to compare notes, share best practices, and leave with a fresh perspective on integrated coaching.
10:50m - 11:15 am	Break with Exhibitors	Legacy Ballroom			
11:15 am - 12:05 pm	Session 12				
	Title	<i>From Chaos to Clarity: Reorganizing Content with Concept Grids: A Metacognitive Strategy</i>	Brainstorming Session: Workplace Issues	<i>It Didn't Start This Way: Evolution of NCLEX Preparation in a BSN Program</i>	
	Speaker	Lucas Wiester	Amanda Mehlhaff	Kelley Noll	
	Description	When information is everywhere, learning is nowhere. This session tackles the "scattered note" syndrome by introducing the Concept Grid—a strategic method for organizing and summarizing diverse learning materials. By forcing students to actively rework their notes and find hidden connections, the Concept Grid turns passive review into active mastery. Join us to learn how this essential stage of the Active Learning Cycle improves comprehension, retention, and the ability to apply complex nursing concepts.	Come meet others interested in building positive workplace, cultural civility, and faculty development ideas. We will network, share what is working in your university and how we can all improve.	This presentation describes how a structured NCLEX preparation model has evolved over eight years and shares key lessons learned from ongoing curricular improvements focused on preparing new graduate nurses. Presenting the model's development loop provides practical guidance for nurse educators seeking to implement or update NCLEX preparation strategies.	
12:05 - 1:30 pm	Lunch & Closing Remarks	Grand Ballroom			

Friday, March 27, 2026