NURSES EXPO 2027



Stateline Nurses Network

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2027

Embassy Suites Rockford Riverfront
416 S. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61104

PRESENTED BY STATELINE NURSES NETWORK

NURSES EXPO 2027

Stateline Nurses Network

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NURSES EXPO 2027

ABOUT

The Stateline Nurses Network, (SNN) was organized in November 2012 when a group of registered nurses who were previously involved with the Illinois Nurses Association (INA) District 3 decided to continue local efforts to provide networking and educational opportunities after INA re-structured and the districts were dissolved earlier that year. This group felt a strong desire to continue their work to advance the profession of nursing and created a new not-for-profit (NFP) organization – the Stateline Nurses Network, NFP! The group wanted to include nurses from both Illinois and Wisconsin and recognized that other nearby states may have an interest in our mission as well.

SNN has a strong commitment to its annual Nurses Expo, one of the longest-running professional nursing conferences in Illinois. Networking and educational events are planned by committees. SNN acknowledges that nurses have a wide variety of practice settings and expertise. Professional nurses are actively and visibly involved with their communities, often volunteering for public organizations and events, supporting charitable agencies, and paying close attention to legislation that affects nursing and the welfare of our population. As nurses, we appreciate that the strength of our profession lies in both the richness of our history and wide educational and work experiences; but also in our unique ability as a large group of professionals to recognize our power to adapt and influence change, policymakers, and the health of our communities.

MISSION

The Stateline Nurses Network, (SNN) is a group of registered nurses who seek to advance the profession of nursing through networking, collegiality, continuing education, and professional development.

We encourage every nurse to join their state's professional nursing organization to provide unity of message, goals, strategies, and resources. In Illinois, ANA-Illinois represents and supports the Nurse Practice Act, our state board of nursing, education of nurses, and societal and legal implications of our profession. Stateline Nurses Network serves as a valuable local resource to strengthen our voice, offer encouragement, and stimulate involvement in the profession of nursing.

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PAST SPEAKERS

Kim Kraft, MSN, RN, CPAN(r), CAPA(r).....The Effects of Positive Psychology on Healing
Dr. Hannah Orem, Board Certified NUCCA Chiropractor.....Finding Answers and Relief for Chronic Conditions
Anne Havrilla MSN CRNA APRN..... I use the pronouns she, her, hers: Care considerations for those who are gender diverse
June Oliver, MSN, APRN/CNS, CCNS, PGMT-BC, AP-PMN.....The Intersection of Pain and Substance Use Disorders
Kimberly Rich, Doctoral Degree, Certified Grief Educator, Death Doula.....On Being an End-of-Life Doula
Aileen Zei, BA, Human Services.....Communicating Effectively While Responding to Dementia-related Behaviors
Nika Winiarski, PhD.....Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD.): Tools for Compassionate Nursing Care
Dr. Aaron Taylor, DO/Physician-Emergency Medicine.....Sepsis/SIRS
Sharon Thomas, RN, TNS.....Nursing Beyond Borders: Mission Nursing
Kearsti-Rae Knowles, MMT, LPMT, MT-BC.....The Song of Care: Listening, Healing, and Being Human Together

WHO YOU'LL MEET

233 nurses and students attended in 2026

76% of attendees are licensed RNs

81% hold a bachelor's degree or higher

66 nursing students registered in 2026

Attendee roles



Nursing students 11% · LPNs 7% · APRN and DNP 6%

Education level



Doctoral and other 9%

Hiring? Three in four attendees are licensed RNs. Recruiting for graduate programs? 72% hold a BSN or MSN. Building a pipeline? Meet tomorrow's nurses at your table.

Roles and education from 2022 attendee survey. 2026 counts from Expo registration.

NURSES EXPO 2027

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AGENDA

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Registration, Breakfast (provided by Stateline Nurses Network), Exhibits & Posters, Welcome & Announcements**

8:00 am – 9:15 am **KEYNOTE – Dr. Kimberly Rich, Doctoral Degree, Certified Grief Educator and Death Doula "Why does it matter? Collaboration between end-of-life doulas and medical teams"**

9:15 am – 9:45 am **Break/Exhibits/Posters**

9:55 am-10:55 am FIRST MORNING BREAKOUT – 3 concurrent sessions

- Stephanie Grimm, Co-Executive Director at The Haven Network "Compassionate Humanity: Supporting Grieving Parents"
- Erin Brefeld, BSN, RN, CDCES, "Let's Talk Diabetes--I Have a Lot to Say"
- Karen Lane, MS, ,RN "Your Notes Tell the Story, How nursing documentation wins - or loses - the denial fight"

11:05 am-12:05 pm SECOND MORNING BREAKOUT – 3 concurrent sessions

- Denny Kizer, MSN, RN, CEN, PHRN & Kyle Aldridge, RN, CFRN, PHRN, TNS "ABCs of Emergency Care"
- Stephanie Grimm, Co-Executive Director at The Haven Network "Compassionate Humanity: Supporting Grieving Parents"
- Erin Brefeld, BSN, RN, CDCES, "Let's Talk Diabetes--I Have a Lot to Say"

12:05 – 1:05 pm **Lunch (provided by Stateline Nurses Network) Exhibits & Posters**

1:05 pm-2:05 pm FIRST AFTERNOON BREAKOUT – 3 concurrent sessions

- Kortni Spaulding, M.S.Ed.., LPSC "Human Trafficking: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know"
- Dr. Neal Shah, MD "Arthritis Pain Management: Navigating Chronic Maintenance and Acute Exacerbations"
- Loni A. Wilson, MSW, LCSW, More Than a Moment: The Lasting Impact Nurses Can Have on Children and Families in Foster Care"

2:15 pm-3:15 pm SECOND AFTERNOON BREAKOUT – 3 concurrent sessions

- Sylvia Baker, MSN, RN, CPAN (retired), FASPAN "Mission Tripping in Ethiopia"
- Kortni Spaulding, M.S.Ed.., LPSC "Human Trafficking: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know"
- Dr. Neal Shah, MD "Arthritis Pain Management: Navigating Chronic Maintenance and Acute Exacerbations"

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm **Afternoon Break (snacks provided by Stateline Nurses Network)**

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm **KEYNOTE – Alison Tindall, RN, BSN, MHA, NC-BC, CPT, CHMLD-P, Beyond Running on Empty: Real-Life Self-Care for Nurses, Simple resets for your shift and your life**

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm **Awards, Posters, Scholarships, Raffles, Conclusion**

NURSES EXPO 2027

2027 GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

When: Friday, April 23, 2027
Time: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where:
Embassy Suites Rockford Riverfront
416 S. Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104

NEW LOCATION



What's new at Embassy Suites

- Main sessions and meals in the Ziock Ballroom
- Breakout sessions in theater-style rooms
- Exhibitor tables along the pre-function corridors, steps from every session
- Floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Davis Park
- Table linens provided for exhibitors

SPONSORSHIP OVERVIEW

Why Sponsor with Nurses Expo?

Some of the benefits of exhibiting at the Nurses Expo include:

- Exposure:
  a. Put your organization in front of nursing professionals from across the Stateline region
  b. Meet attendees face to face at breakfast and during every break
  c. Brand recognition before, during and after Expo

- Networking:

The exhibitor area is the busiest part of Expo day: a place to promote continuing education, new products, evidence-based research, healthcare services and career opportunities.

New for 2027: Expo moves to Embassy Suites Rockford Riverfront, and exhibitor space is limited and assigned first come, first served. Reserve early.

Thursday, April 22, 2027: Move-in and setup
Friday, April 23, 2027: Expo day

- Setup and exhibit times will be announced once the agenda is final

COMPARE TABLE SPONSORSHIPS

Packages at a glance

Every package includes a 6-ft exhibitor table with linen and 2 chairs. Space is limited and assigned first come, first served.

	Presenting ONLY ONE $5,000	Gold $2,000	Silver $1,000	Bronze $500
Exclusive, only one	✓	—	—	—
Exhibitor table	First pick	✓	✓	✓
Meals for reps	2 reps	2 reps	1 rep	1 rep
Event signage	Presented by	✓	✓	✓
Website and Facebook	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expo slideshow	Title credit	Full-page ad	Half-page ad	Name listed
Expo T-shirt	Top logo	Logo	Name	—
Exhibitor Passport logo	✓	✓	✓	—
Speaker sponsorship	✓	—	—	—
Registrations with CEUs	2	—	—	—
Swag bag insert	✓	—	—	—

Some Bronze tables are held for colleges and community nonprofits. Want more visibility? Any sponsor can add a meal, speaker, swag bag, photobooth, ad or insert sponsorship from the No Table Needed pages.

233
attendees in 2026

44
sponsors in 2026

4.7 to 4.9
speaker ratings out of 5

NURSES EXPO 2027

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Presenting Sponsor — $5,000

- “Nurses Expo 2027, presented by [your organization]” on signage, the slideshow, the SNN website and Facebook
- Top logo placement on the official Expo T-shirt and the Exhibitor Passport
- Logo signs on attendee tables in the main speaker room
- Speaker sponsorship of your choice
- One 6-ft exhibitor table with first pick of location
- 2 representatives at your table, with breakfast and lunch provided
- 2 complimentary nurse registrations with CEUs (separate registration required)
- Swag bag insert (sponsor provides items by 4/1/2027)

ONLY ONE AVAILABLE

Put your name on Nurses Expo 2027

There is one Presenting Sponsor, and it goes to the first organization that commits. Every sign, slide, shirt and post says “presented by” you, all day.

Claim it: statelinenurses2013@gmail.com

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Gold Sponsorship — $2,000

- One 6-ft exhibitor table with linen and 2 chairs
- 2 representatives at your table, with breakfast provided
- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor on event signage and the SNN website
- Name listed in Expo materials and the slideshow as a Gold Sponsor
- Full-page ad in the Expo slideshow
- Logo on the official co-branded Nurses Expo T-shirt
- Logo on the Exhibitor Passport
- Promotion on SNN social media (Facebook and more)

Silver Sponsorship — $1,000

- One 6-ft exhibitor table with linen and 2 chairs
- Recognition as a Silver Sponsor on event signage and the SNN website
- Name listed in Expo materials and the slideshow
- Half-page ad in the Expo slideshow
- Name listed on the official co-branded Nurses Expo T-shirt
- Logo on the Exhibitor Passport
- Promotion on SNN social media (Facebook and more)

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bronze Sponsorship — $500

Some tables are held for colleges and community nonprofits.

- One 6-ft exhibitor table with linen and 2 chairs
- Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor on event signage and the SNN website
- Name listed in Expo materials and the slideshow
- Promotion on SNN social media (Facebook and more)

Keynote Speaker Sponsorship — $1,000

- Exclusive recognition as one of the Keynote Speaker Sponsors
- Table sponsorship for the reserved speaker table
- 1 complimentary conference registration with CEUs

Speaker Sponsorship — $500

- Exclusive recognition as one of the Speaker Sponsors
- Signage in the session room while your speaker presents



NO TABLE OR STAFF NEEDED

Be Seen Without a Table

Stateline Nurses Network

We know your team is busy and can't always spare staff for a full day. These sponsorships keep your organization in front of the frontline nurses who make referrals and talk with patients about the services you offer.

Breakfast Sponsor

$1,500

Signage at breakfast, the first thing every attendee sees, plus a swag bag item.

Lunch Sponsor

$1,500

Your name in front of the whole room at lunch, plus a swag bag item.

Refreshments Sponsor

$500

Signage at the refreshment table during every break.

Swag Bag Sponsor

$2,000

Your logo on the bag every attendee carries home.

Keynote Speaker Sponsor

$1,000

Recognition with a keynote speaker, plus 1 registration with CEUs.

Speaker Sponsor

$500

Signage in the session room while your speaker presents.

Photobooth Sponsor

$1,000

Signage at the booth, plus photo posts on the SNN website and Facebook.

Ads and Bag Inserts

From $100

Slideshow ads, literature inserts ($100) and branded product inserts ($200).

Book one on its own or add it to a table package. Email statelinenurses2013@gmail.com to reserve.

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NO TABLE NEEDED

Breakfast Sponsorship — $1,500

The first thing every attendee sees on Expo day.

- Recognition as the breakfast sponsor
- Recognition on signage at the breakfast venue
- One promotional item in the conference swag bag

Lunch Sponsorship — $1,500

Your name in front of the whole room at lunch.

- Recognition as the lunch sponsor
- Recognition on signage at the lunch venue
- One promotional item in the conference swag bag

Refreshments Sponsorship — $500

Your name at the refreshment table during every break.

- Recognition as the refreshments sponsor
- Recognition on signage at the refreshment table
- One promotional item in the conference swag bag



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NO TABLE NEEDED

Attendee Swag Bag Sponsorship — $2,000

The bag every attendee carries home.

- Recognition as the conference bag sponsor
- Your logo on the official co-branded Expo bag
- Special recognition from the podium during the conference
- One promotional item in the conference bag

Literature Swag Bag Insert — $100

Price per insert.

- Your flyer or brochure in every attendee's swag bag



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NO TABLE NEEDED

Branded Product Swag Bag Insert — $200

Price per insert.

- Your branded product in every conference bag
- Ideas: power banks, drinkware, journals, pens, compression socks, badge reels, stress balls, keychains, stethoscope ID tags, or gift cards for your products and services

Slideshow Advertisement — See website

On screen in the main room all day.

- Full-page or half-page ad in the Expo slideshow
- Buy on its own or add to any sponsorship
- Sizes and pricing at statelinenurses.org

Photobooth Sponsorship — $1,000

- Recognition as the photobooth sponsor
- Recognition on signage at the photobooth
- Photo posts on the SNN website and social media

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SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

Ready to reserve your spot?
Scan the QR code to apply, or email your full contact information to statelinenurses2013@gmail.com.
Space is limited and assigned first come, first served.

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NURSING AWARDS OVERVIEW

Honor a fellow nurse or nursing supporter!

Every year, SNN honors nurses across the Stateline as a way to say, “Thank you! We value everything you do and for being the backbone of our community”. We also honor and thank a supporter of the nursing profession.

Help SNN choose this year’s award winners.

Submit your nominations today!

- Distinguished Advocate for Nursing Award: an individual, group, agency, or institution that has promoted and/or supported nurses, the nursing profession, or the specific missions of nursing.
- Excellence in Nursing Award: an outstanding nurse who has demonstrated excellence in practice and in their contribution to the community outside of work.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
03/26/2027

+62

Awards Given

For Excellence in Nursing and Distinguished Advocacy

Scan the QR code or go to www.statelinenurses.org to complete an award nomination form

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SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

The Stateline Nurses Network is pleased to announce the availability of four scholarship awards. The members of the Stateline Nurses Network wish to recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in both academic and clinical performance.

Applicants should reside in or attend school in Northern Illinois or Southern Wisconsin. Monetary awards in the amount of $1,000.00 will be presented to selected applicants who demonstrate potential for excellence in professional nursing practice.

Awards are available in each of four categories:

- Pre-licensure student RN or LPN (must be enrolled in at least 2nd term of clinical courses)
- BSN degree completion student
- Graduate student in nursing
- Doctoral student

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
02/26/2027

Scan the QR code or go to www.statelinenurses.org to complete a scholarship application

PAST RECIPIENTS

2026:
Courtney Murphy - Pre-Licensure
Joshua Copher - Graduate
Vanessa Tellez - Doctoral

+158
Scholarships Granted
Encouraging life-long learning in the nursing profession

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POSTER PRESENTER OVERVIEW

Poster session for Nurses Expo 2027

We invite you to submit a poster abstract. Certificates will be awarded for the best EBP/Research, Innovation, Practice Improvement Projects, Student, and People's Choice.

- Evidence-based practice projects (EBP)/Research: abstracts describe ongoing or completed research that focuses upon timely & relevant nursing problems that is based on current evidence.
- Innovation: abstracts describe ongoing or completed innovations pertaining to a problem that has resulted in the creation or implementation of a new process or product relevant to the field of nursing.
- Practice improvement projects: including simulation projects, projects completed or completing at work to improve patient care, lessons learned, or successful changes to processes in the nursing field.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE
03/26/2027

Scan the QR code or go to www.statelinenurses.org to complete a Call for Abstract Form

PAST WINNERS (2025)

People's Choice: Escape Rooms: Enhancing the Learning Environment, Alexis Sies & Michelle Regan
Innovation: Advancing Practice Readiness Through Competency-Based Nursing Education, Alyse Flury, Mary McNamara
EBP/Research: Another Tool in the Toolbox: Quantifying Pre-Existing Human Milk Feeding Experience with the Breastfeeding Awareness Level Tool, Joshua Copher
Practice Improvement: Escape Rooms: Enhancing the Learning Environment, Alexis Sies & Michelle Regan

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With your support, Nurses Expo 2027 will be our best yet!



Ready to reserve? Email us today.
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