



2024 Fall Conference Schedule

Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place

November 7-8, 2024

Speaker Information

Bonnie Clipper DNP, MA, MBA, RN, CENP, GACHE, FAAN

Bonnie founded Innovation Advantage after more than 20 years as a Chief Nurse Executive when she had the opportunity to commit to innovation during her RWJF Executive Nurse Fellowship and then jumped at the chance to become an ASU/AONL Executive Fellow in Innovative Health Leadership. Her one-of-a-kind skill set brings decades of operational experience, bundled with her expertise in nursing innovation and experience in academics. She is a trailblazer and was the first Vice President of Innovation at the American Nurses Association, where she created an innovation strategy to bring over 4M nurses into the innovation space. She enjoys pushing the limits and relentlessly questions paradigms, which is often on full display in her work as a top healthcare influencer.

Brandon Benton

Brandon Benton (he/him) is currently working as a Nurse Practitioner at West Virginia University Medicine in Morgantown, WV in Adolescent Medicine and Child Safety and Advocacy. He is a 2024 graduate of the Keith Haring Nurse Practitioner Postgraduate Fellowship in LGBTQ Health at Callen-Lorde in NYC. He obtained his Master of Science in Nursing in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Simmons University in 2022 and his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University in 2016. He has been a nurse for 8.5 years and has worked in various capacities including bedside nursing, leadership positions such as a supervisor and a clinical director, and as Clinical Nurse Educator for AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC). He has also been a Forensic Nurse Examiner for 5.5 years and has created trainings on how to conduct sexual assault exams on transgender and gender diverse individuals. He is passionate about LGBTQ+ and HIV healthcare and is a strong advocate for the community. He has also been invited to present and lecture on multiple LGBTQIA+ topics. He actively takes part in qualitative and quantitative research in the transgender and gender diverse community. He is actively working on interpreting and publishing his most recent data and has been published in JAMA Pediatrics. He is a member of the ANCC, AANP, WPATH, Fairness WV, Future of Nursing WV, the WV Nurses Association, and the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State.

Angel Smothers

Angel Smothers was born and raised in a rural coal camp community in Mercer County, WV. She completed her undergraduate education at Bluefield State University and earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from West Virginia University. Currently serving as the Associate Dean for Community Engagement at the WVU School of Nursing, Angel is dedicated to improving health and wellness in underserved populations. She and her husband are also the proud parents of two transgender teens and a non-binary adult child, and she considers herself an ally and advocate for the gender-diverse community.

Lou Teter

Lou Teter is the Equal Employment Opportunity Consultant with WVU Medicine's new Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She has 10 years of professional experience in large group facilitation and training in both corporate and nonprofit settings, and an academic background in healthcare policy research and implementation with a special interest in nondiscrimination provisions of healthcare policy. Lou's long-term goals are to foster a healthcare setting where all patients, employees, and community members feel safe and cared for. By developing and conducting trainings with healthcare providers throughout the multi-state region, she strives to decrease health disparities and improve patient outcomes by increasing foundational knowledge and awareness of marginalized community healthcare experiences.

Jodi Biller

Dr. Jodi Biller is a nurse practitioner and healthcare executive currently serving as the Director of Clinical Improvement for MHC ACO at Marshall Health Network. With a strong focus on advancing population health strategies and optimizing healthcare operations, she is dedicated to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

At Marshall Health Network, Dr. Biller leads quality and care management initiatives that enhance patient outcomes and integrate innovative technologies. Her efforts have successfully improved annual

wellness visits, addressed social determinants of health, and strengthened chronic disease management programs.

Dr. Biller holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from West Virginia University and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Marshall University. In addition to her executive role, she practices part-time in a pulmonary clinic, actively engaging with patients and applying her clinical insights to her leadership work. She is also an influential voice in national healthcare organizations, presenting at conferences on topics such as value-based care and population health management.

Since 2020, Dr. Biller has served as the Chair of the Healthcare Policy Committee for the West Virginia Nurses Association. Prior to this role, she was the West Virginia State Liaison for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners from 2020 to 2024, where she actively advocated for nurse practitioners and advanced their critical role within the healthcare system.

Recognized as a thought leader in the field, Dr. Biller is committed to community outreach, tirelessly advocating for healthcare access and education for underserved populations.

Brandon Hatfield

Brandon Hatfield serves as Vice President and General Counsel for the West Virginia Hospital Association. Prior to joining the WVHA, Brandon served as Committee Counsel with the West Virginia House of Delegates.

Brandon has over 10 years of legislative experience, with the last 9 years specifically dedicated to health policy. His advocacy at the state legislature has addressed a variety of issues, including modernizing the Certificate of Need program, protecting the 340B drug pricing program, and increasing hospital reimbursement.

As a native West Virginian, Brandon earned his bachelor's degree from Marshall University, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from West Virginia University.

Eric Small

Eric Small MSN, MBA, RN is a nurse leader and advocate in Morgantown, WV where he lives with his wife, daughter, and pets. A native of Morgantown, Eric received his BSN from Waynesburg University and his MSN/MBA from WVU. Eric has worked at many levels of nursing care beginning as a housekeeper at WVUH while attending school. He has worked as an aide, an inpatient clinical nurse, charge nurse, nurse supervisor and nurse manager all in inpatient med-surg settings. He worked for two years as the WVUH Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center's Outreach and Injury Prevention Coordinator before taking on his current position as Manager of Nursing Program Development with the WVU Medicine Health System's Center for Nursing Excellence. In this role he oversees and coordinates the WVU Medicine Aspiring Nurse Program and works to promote advocacy for nursing and nursing professional development.

In his capacity as an advocate for nurses, Eric works as an advisor group facilitator for Care for Nurses, Chairperson for the WVUH Spiritual Care and Education's Professional Advisory Group and he is the Chairperson for the West Virginia Nurses Political Action Committee. In these avenues he seeks to educate nurses on the avenues where their voice can be heard and increasing engagement in healthcare and policy decision-making spaces.

Senator Tom Takubo, Majority Leader

Dr. Tom Takubo, a native of Chapmanville, West Virginia, embodies the values of his community through his remarkable journey. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Marshall University, he pursued his passion for serving others by graduating from the West Virginia School of

Osteopathic Medicine in 1999. He then completed an Internal Medicine residency at WVU Charleston, followed by a Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep fellowship at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Takubo's commitment to advancing healthcare in West Virginia led to the founding of the state's largest private pulmonary group in 2007, where he introduced cutting-edge diagnostic services.

Beyond his medical endeavors, Dr. Takubo ventured into public service and was elected to the West Virginia Senate in 2014. Throughout his tenure, he has held key roles and currently serves as the Senate Majority Leader, demonstrating his dedication to meaningful contributions beyond the medical field. Transitioning to WVU Medicine in 2022, he became an Executive Vice President of Provider Relations. Dr. Takubo continues to innovate and collaborate while maintaining his clinical practice.

Devoted to his family, Dr. Tom Takubo finds balance by prioritizing time with his wife, Tori, and their three children. His leadership, expertise, and unwavering dedication to his community have solidified his reputation as a respected figure in professional and personal realms. With a fervent desire to effect positive change and improve lives, Dr. Takubo's legacy encompasses a profound commitment to service and a deep-rooted passion for helping others.

Kathryn Reed

Kathryn Reed is a certified physician assistant and is the founder and president of the National Society of Black Physician Assistants (NSBPA). She received her B.S in Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh in 2014, graduating Cum Laude with a minor in chemistry. She then received her M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. Kathryn has practiced in family medicine, internal medicine, and emergency medicine. She now holds a faculty appointment in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Physician Assistant Studies Hybrid Program where she is an Assistant Professor and Vice Chair for Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement. Additionally, Kathryn is a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistant's IDEA Committee and is a commissioner for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation in Practice Transition Programs (COA – PTP). Kathryn is also proud to have received the PA Education Association (PAEA) Excellence Through Diversity Award in 2024 and the PAEA New Faculty Award for Professional Excellence in 2023. Outside of her professional roles, Kathryn enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going on walks with her husband, reading books from a variety of genres, organizing a messy cabinet or pantry, and exercising to support her mental health and overall wellness (yoga, weightlifting, HIIT training, hiking, etc.).

Lauren Lane

Lauren Lane is a Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist at Charleston Area Medical Center with 9 years of healthcare recruitment experience. Lauren specializes in nurse recruitment and is responsible for the recruitment of Graduate RNs, Ambulatory RNs, clinical RNs, and RNFAs in southern Vandalia region. Lauren graduated with her bachelor's in business administration from Marshall University and holds a Certified Healthcare Recruiter certification from the National Association for Health Care Recruitment. In her free time, Lauren like to travel with her husband and son, watch her son play basketball, and plans travel for others.

Tanya Rogers

Dr. Tanya Rogers has been a nurse for 28 years and nurse educator for over 23 years. She received her MSN in nursing education (2004) and EdD in higher education leadership (2009) from West Virginia University. Dr. Rogers developed a love for administration and expertise in accreditation, student

outcome assessment, program evaluation, and curriculum development. In August of 2023, she was hired to create a nursing school and hospital-based diploma program from the ground up for WVU Medicine.

Kathryn Scott

Kathy Scott has worked in the healthcare industry for many years. Having worked in the office of a general surgeon as a billing clerk to now Director of Care Management, she has had the opportunity to see healthcare from many different lenses. Kathy has worked at Summersville Regional Medical Center for 26 years with the first 12 years as a medical transcriptionist. She returned to school as a nontraditional student and graduated with her ADN in 2012 from Bluefield State University. Since that time, she has continued her education to include a BSN, MSN with a focus on Healthcare Administration and recently completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Liberty University. Her roles as a bedside nurse on the have included Medical/Surgical, Intensive Care and Emergency Department care. She has held the role of nursing supervisor, Acute Care Manager, Director of Nursing and now Director of Care Management.

Kathy is passionate about caring for her community in multiple ways – from coworkers to patients and the youth population. She serves on the Nicholas Intervention Coalition as well as their subcommittee for prevention and harm reduction to help develop ways to meet the needs of community members who struggle with substance use disorder. She also serves on the Governance Council for the WV Perinatal Partnership that focuses on Rural Maternity Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) to facilitate ways to make obstetrical and gynecological care available to those in rural areas. Kathy works with the local TEEN Court initiative and is treasurer of the SPARROWS academy that focuses on working with youth to give guidance and opportunities to become active and productive members of their families, schools, and communities.

Kathy lives in Southern WV with her husband Ken and their 15-year-old daughter. Kathy's goal in life is simply "to make a difference."

Susan Russell

With 29 years of nursing experience, Susan Russell, MSN, RN, NE-BC, RN-BC, has dedicated her career to advancing healthcare at the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC), where she has been a valued employee for 34 years. Currently serving as the Director of Nursing Practice and Magnet Recognition, Susan plays a pivotal role in enhancing nursing standards and fostering an environment of excellence in patient care.

Her leadership has been instrumental in leading the journey for Magnet Recognition, a testament to her commitment to nursing excellence and quality improvement. Susan's passion for mentorship and professional development has positively impacted countless nurses throughout her career.

In addition to her clinical achievements, Susan is actively involved in her community. She serves on the Board of Directors for the West Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders and is the current Chair of the CAMC Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. As a Board Member of the Bridgevalley Community & Technical College Foundation, she is dedicated to supporting education and workforce development in the nursing field.

Susan's contributions continue to shape the future of nursing in West Virginia and beyond, reflecting her deep commitment to both her profession and her community.

Jennifer Ferrell

With over 20 years of nursing leadership experience, Jennifer Ferrell, RN, NE-BC, NPD-BC, OCN, is dedicated to advancing nursing practice and quality care at CAMC. As the Director of Nursing Practice, Quality, and Education, she oversees accredited nurse residency and professional development programs, ensuring that nurses are equipped with the skills necessary to excel in today's healthcare environment.

Jennifer has played a pivotal role in multiple quality improvement initiatives focused on health-associated infections, regulatory compliance, and enhancing patient experience. Her expertise is further complemented by her involvement in CAMC's internal auditor program, where she contributes to maintaining the highest standards of patient care and safety.

In addition to her administrative and quality oversight roles, Jennifer is passionate about education and is an active faculty member at CAMC University, where she teaches Crucial Conversations. Her commitment to nursing leadership and professional development continues to inspire and elevate the nursing workforce at CAMC and beyond.

Adam Fannin

Adam T. Fannin, NE-BC CNE CNEcl CHSE, NI-BC CCRN CNRN SCRN, RYT-500, is an educator at Charleston Area Medical Center, BridgeValley CTC, and WVJC, and is completing his DNP studies in nursing education at Ohio University. As a nurse educator, yoga instructor, and life-long learner, he is always eager to find ways to inspire discussion about intrinsic motivation, self-care, and mindfulness in an increasingly overwhelming healthcare environment.

Rebecca Smeltzer

Rebecca Smeltzer, DNP, MBA, RN, is an assistant Teaching Professor in the School of Nursing. She is the program coordinator of the MSN/MBA dual degree program and the Post-Master's Certificate in Nurse Executive Leadership. She is also the program director of the WVU SON ANCC Accredited Provider Unit.

Prior to teaching, she held positions of leadership in nursing administration for 7 years, as a manager, director and CNO. Her clinical background includes over 15 years of adult ICU experience. She joined the faculty of WVU SON in 2008 and has experience teaching ethics & leadership. She has taught in both undergraduate and graduate courses over the last 16 years with the school.

Stacy W. Huber

Stacy W. Huber, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE is a Clinical Education Associate Professor and the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Graduate programs at WVU in the School of Nursing. She holds a Master's Degree in Nursing Education and a Doctorate in Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a Certification in Nursing Education (CNE) from the National League of Nurses (NLN) and has been a nursing educator for over 22 years teaching in associates, bachelor, and graduate level nursing programs in both state and private academic institutions. Dr. Huber has extensive experience in curriculum development and evaluation. Additionally, Dr. Huber serves as an on-site evaluator for the National League of Nursing (NLN) Commission for Nursing Accreditation.