

# 2026 WCN Annual Nursing Workforce Summit

Friday, August 07, 2026  
 Glacier Canyon Conference Center  
 Wisconsin Dells, WI



## Agenda

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 7:30 - 8:30 AM   | Registration, Coffee, and Conversation   Exhibits Open  |
| 8:30 - 8:45 AM   | <b>Welcome: Celebrating 20 Years of Nursing Workforce Leadership</b><br>Kerri Kliminski, EdD, MSN, RN, WCN Board President  |
| 8:45 - 10:15 AM  | <b>The State of the Wisconsin Nursing Workforce: RN, LPN, &amp; Nursing Faculty</b><br>8:45 – 9:10 am 2025 LPN Survey Report – Kristen Merse, PhD, RN<br>9:10 – 9:30 am 2024 RN Survey Report – Roberta Pawlak, PhD, RN, NEA-BC<br>9:30 – 9:50 am 2024 Educator & Education Faculty Report – Gail Hanson Brenner, PhD, RN, CNE<br><br><b>Wisconsin’s Nursing Workforce Forecast: Looking Ahead to 2040</b><br>9:50 – 10:10 am Analyst Tom Walsh - Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development |
| 10:15 - 10:45 AM | BREAK   EXHIBITS  |
| 10:45 - 11:15 AM | <b>Workforce Topic 1: Recruitment, Retention and Wisconsin Nurses Generational and Diverse Differences</b><br><br>Expert Overview: Michelle Hehman, MSN, RN, NEA BC<br>Director of Nursing, Clinical Partnerships<br>Health Carousel  |
| 11:15 - 12:00 PM | Guided Table Discussion – How Does This Fit for Wisconsin   |
| 12:00 - 1:15 PM  | WCN Nursing Workforce Awards Luncheon   |
| 1:15 - 1:45 PM   | <b>Workforce Topic 2: Artificial Intelligence Use in Nursing Education &amp; Practice</b><br><br>Expert Overview: Ann Wieben, PhD, RN, NI-BC<br>Assistant Professor, Nursing Informatics<br>University of Wisconsin Madison School of Nursing   |
| 1:45 - 2:15 PM   | Guided Table Discussion – How is AI Impacting Wisconsin Nursing Education & Practice  |
| 2:15 - 3:00 PM   | BREAK   Ice Cream Social  |
| 3:00 - 4:00 PM   | <b>Connecting Wisconsin Nursing Workforce to Organizational Decisions &amp; Health Policy</b><br><br>State Leader: Secretary Dan Hereth<br>Wisconsin Department of Safety & Professional Services   |
| 4:00 - 4:15 PM   | Call to Action & Next Steps   |