



Missouri League  
for Nursing

**PRESENTS**

# EMPOWER & IGNITE:

SPARKING INNOVATION  
AT THE 12TH ANNUAL  
NURSING STUDENT  
CONVENTION

**April 7-8, 2025**

*Hollywood Casino*

*777 Casino Center Dr  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043*



Don't miss this incredible opportunity to be inspired and ignite your passion for nursing at the 12th Annual Nursing Student Convention and Job Expo! Dive into innovative sessions, connect with industry leaders, and elevate your career to new heights. Join us to unlock your full potential and shape the future of healthcare!

[WWW.MLNMONURSING.ORG](http://WWW.MLNMONURSING.ORG)

# April 6- Sunday

5:00-6:00 PM:

Check in early! If your schedule permits, **INSTRUCTORS** may pick up convention registration packets, the evening prior to the start of convention, for their students.

# April 7-Monday

7:30-8:30 AM

Registration, Job Expo, Student Fundraisers

8:30-9:00

Opening Ceremony and Scholarship Presentation

9:00-10:00

**Keynote: Nurturing Passion and Leadership in Nursing: Overcoming Obstacles and Making a Lasting Impact**

*Speaker: Tommye Austin, RN, MBA, PhD, NEA-BC, BJC HealthCare, Patient Care Systems Senior Vice President and System Chief Nurse Executive*

**The purpose of this session is to explore the essential characteristics that sustain passion and enthusiasm in nursing, recognize the profound and lasting impact nurses have on patients' lives, and reflect on the qualities of determination and grit necessary to overcome obstacles.**

**Additionally, this session will emphasize the importance of a strong peer community for personal well-being and summarize key leadership qualities for clinical practice and beyond.**

10:00-11:00

Break & Job Expo



**JOB FAIR &  
CAREER  
EXPO**



# Missouri League for Nursing

11:00-12:00

**Holistic Wellness: Balancing Mind, Body, and Spirit in Nursing**

*Speaker: Dr. Heidi Monroe, DNP, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor, Stephens College*

**The purpose of this presentation is to highlight the importance of maintaining a healthy mind, body, and spirit for nursing students. Attendees will explore current diet and exercise trends and learn practical strategies to implement lifestyle changes that promote overall wellness both during and after their nursing education.**

12:00-1:00

Lunch (provided)

1:00-2:00

**Marketing Yourself for Now and In the Future**

*Speaker: Brittany Gordon, MBA and MHA, Health Care Recruiter with MU Health Care*

**Marketing Yourself starts now! This session is going to take you through the importance of maintaining a positive self-image and how doing so is going to set you up for your future! Students will learn resume writing tips, how to be successful in an interview, and will get guidance for the offer acceptance and post offer acceptance process. Your future starts now, and this session will prepare you for getting the right position in the field!**

2:00-3:00

**The Role of the Board of Nursing in Student Concerns: Your rights and responsibilities as a student.**

*Speaker: Amy Ackerson, Director of Education, Missouri State Board of Nursing Missouri Department of Commerce & Insurance*

**This session will educate students on the Missouri State Board of Nursing's role in regulating nursing education, guide them on the proper channels for escalating complaints beyond the course instructor, and help them recognize the board's legal authority in handling student complaints and grade appeals.**

3:00-3:30

**Break & Job Expo**

3:30-4:30

**Harnessing AI: Navigating Acceptable and Unacceptable Uses in the Classroom**

*Speaker: Stephanie Witcher, EdD, MS, English instructor, Communications Division Chair, and Coordinator of Teaching and Learning at Crowder College*

**This session will educate nursing students on the ethical use of AI in the classroom, emphasizing what is acceptable and unacceptable, and to guide them on how to leverage AI tools effectively to enhance their learning experience.**

4:30-5:00

**Mastering Conflict Resolution: Strategies for Nursing Students in Healthcare Settings**

*Speakers: MacKenzie Evans, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, Assistant Professor; Alyson Hill, MSN, RN, CPN, CHSE, Assistant Professor; Elissa Zorn, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, Assistant Professor; MSN Director, RN-BSN Coordinator; Missouri Western State University*

**The purpose of this presentation is to equip nursing students with strategies to resolve conflicts in healthcare settings. Through recognizing common sources of conflict and practicing resolution techniques, this presentation aims to prepare students to navigate professional challenges and improve patient care.**

## April 8-Tuesday Student Agenda

8:30-10:00

**Unraveling the NCLEX Mystery- Strategies for Success**

*Speakers: Dr. Gene Leutzinger, DNP, MSN-Ed, RN, Integration Specialist Nurse Educator, ATI; Melodie Rowbotham, PhD, RN, CNE, Integration Specialist Nurse Educator*

**At the conclusion of the session the attendees will be able to describe the changes to the NCSBN NCLEX Test Plan, define Clinical Judgment and its measurement, and employ test taking strategies designed to enhance NCLEX Success.**

10:00-10:30

**Break**

10:30-12:00

**Ok, you just passed NCLEX, Now what?!**

*Speakers: Dr. Gene Leutzinger, DNP, MSN-Ed, RN, Integration Specialist Nurse Educator, ATI; Melodie Rowbotham, PhD, RN, CNE, Integration Specialist Nurse Educator*

**The purpose of this presentation is to empower nursing students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a successful transition to professional nursing. By recognizing the role of self-efficacy and self-confidence, identifying ways to enhance these attributes, understanding the importance of self-compassion, and citing examples of resilience, students will be better prepared to navigate the challenges of their new roles and thrive as nurses.**

## Faculty Agenda

8:00-9:00

**Engaging Minds: Harnessing Active Writing and Learning to Reinforce Key Concepts and Skills**

*Speaker: KA'Sandra Leer, RN, MSN-Ed, PN Program Coordinator, Crowder College*

**Active writing increases student engagement, reinforces priority concepts, allows students to practice skills, and utilizes all three of Bloom's Learning Domains. Active learning allows the educator to formatively assess the classroom and provide immediate and frequent feedback.**

9:00-10:00

**Mastering Item Writing: Crafting Effective Assessments for Nursing Education**

*Speaker: Stephanie Franks, MSN, RN, CNE, Professor, St. Louis Community College*

**This presentation aims to equip nurse educators with the skills and strategies necessary for creating high-quality assessment items. By focusing on best practices for item writing, this session will help educators develop reliable and valid assessments that accurately measure student learning and competency in nursing education.**



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for Nursing

10:00-10:30

Break

10:30-11:30

### Handling AI in Education

*Speakers: Stephanie Witcher, EdD, MS, English instructor, Communications Division Chair, and Coordinator of Teaching and Learning at Crowder College; Emily Lewis, MA, English Instructor, Crowder University*

Participants will experience an interactive exploration of AI and ChatGPT integration in the classroom. Through self-reporting, learners are expected to articulate an increased understanding of how to both embrace and mitigate AI technologies. Engaging in open discussions, participants will share their perceptions of AI usage in nursing education, fostering a collaborative exchange of ideas. The session concludes with learners identifying at least one valuable knowledge point gained from the activity, which they commit to incorporating into their current nursing practice, ensuring a practical and applicable takeaway.

11:30-12:00

Open Discussion

## Hotel & Registration

### Hotel

Deluxe King Sunset @ \$109.00

Deluxe Two Queen Sunset @ \$109.00

• A daily Amenity Fee of \$9.99 plus 9.238% tax will be charged per room night.

• Check-in: 4:00 pm & Check-out: 11:00 am

Individuals may call (855) 785-4263 for reservations by Monday, March 24, 2025. Identify yourself as members of the Group, in order to receive the Group Rate. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied with a first night room deposit or guaranteed by credit card. Individual reservations that are not cancelled twenty-four hours prior to arrival will be charged for the first night's room and tax.

All reservations must be made by March 24, 2025

## Registration Fees

Registration fees include t-shirt and course materials.

WE CANNOT BILL YOU. See registration form for deadline dates and payment rates. Registrations may be submitted online at [mlnmonursing.org](http://mlnmonursing.org), by mail, fax, or phone between normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We accept Discover/MasterCard/Visa. There will be a \$30 service charge on all returned checks.

## Cancellations

Should you need to cancel, we suggest finding a substitute and notifying us of the change. There is a \$50.00 non-refundable cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations will be made after March 25. Cancellations must be received in writing. No refunds or credits will be made if registrant fails to attend.

## Confirmation

Confirmations are sent to the email address given on the registration form.

## Attire

Dress is business casual on day one. Day two you are encouraged to wear the convention t-shirt that will be handed out at registration. Bring a sweater or jacket due to variations in meeting room temperatures.

## Handouts

Handouts will be emailed to you prior to the convention. Although some sessions provide hard copies; it is your responsibility to print and bring the handouts with you. If you prefer, you may store them on an electronic device and bring your computer with you.

## Special Accommodations

In order for the MLN to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must contact the MLN in writing with any special needs or dietary concerns by March 1, 2025. Requests made after this date may not be met. Send your written request to [mln@mlnmonursing.org](mailto:mln@mlnmonursing.org).



# Registration Form

## 12th Annual Nursing Student Convention St. Louis

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Four Digits S.S. # \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Email (not school) \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Month/Year \_\_\_\_\_

Program:  PN  ADN  BSN or  I am faculty and will be attending with my students.

### STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR RATE:

(includes convention t-shirt if received by March 1st)

- \$120 per person
- Organization Member: \$75 per person

### T-SHIRT SIZE:

(Must be received by March 1st)

- Small  Medium  Large
- XL  2XL  3XL

**PAYMENT:** One school check or credit card is required for each group of students attending convention.

Check method of payment:  Check Enclosed  Discover/MC/Visa Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Send registration form and fees to:  
MLN, 604 Dix Road, Jefferson City, MO 65109

Registrations called in to 573-635-5355 or faxed to 573-635-7908 must be charged to Discover/MC/Visa.  
You may register and pay online at [mlnmonursing.org](http://mlnmonursing.org). We cannot bill you.

