

Date: May 30, 2025



FRIDAY HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.

Nursing Workforce

Rural Nursing Support: Huddlers expressed interest in establishing a Pacific Northwest chapter of the Rural Nurse Organization (RNO). Group sentiment is that existing rural networks are too administratively focused, and there is a call for something more tailored to nursing support.

Staff Well-Being: OCN Executive Director Jana Bitton highlighted [a staffing model](#) where therapists were embedded in critical care units to support nurse mental health, reinforcing the importance of proactive support systems in high-stress environments.

Nursing Education

Nursing School Map Launch: A [new interactive map](#) is live on the OCN website, listing all Oregon-based nursing programs with filters by degree (ADN, BSN, MSN, PhD). Data includes enrollment numbers, NCLEX pass rates, tuition, accreditation, and location. If you notice any information that needs correcting, please [reach out to OCN](#).

Clinical Placement Innovations: Huddlers addressed ongoing challenges and creative solutions in clinical placements. Schools are increasingly utilizing evenings and weekends to address scheduling bottlenecks and improve access, with some part-time faculty even preferring these shifts due to their weekday commitments. Participants emphasized the need to shift supervision of cohorted students away from overburdened bedside nurses and back to faculty. Huddlers discussed the confusion that sometimes arises around faculty roles, particularly when institutional policies or liability concerns limit student activities.

Simulation Utilization & Barriers: Although Oregon's Board of Nursing allows up to 50% of clinical hours to be fulfilled via simulation, most programs are not using simulation to that level. Faculty hesitation, certification requirements, and logistical barriers are limiting wider adoption. Many schools invested in state-of-the-art SIM labs using COVID-19 relief funds, yet these facilities remain underutilized—often serving only as lab space rather than clinical simulation environments. A Huddler mentioned challenges in meeting strict simulation standards that are costly and difficult for smaller programs to implement.

Events & Happenings

Wildfire Preparedness: Due to reduced federal support, all are encouraged to review personal and professional [wildfire readiness resources](#).

National Rural Health Association Conference: Conference is being held in September in Kansas City, MO. [Proposal Abstracts](#) are due June 3rd.

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, June 6th, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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