

**Date: October 17, 2025**



# FRIDAY HUDDLE

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

## Nurse Workforce

**Job Market and Hiring Practices:** Participants discussed a tightening job market, especially for new graduates and travel nurses seeking permanent positions. Many reported sending out dozens of applications without hearing back, raising concerns about transparency and hiring freezes across systems. Huddlers encouraged those entering the nursing profession to look outside of typical settings, and recognize the diversity of the settings where nurses work, while also being mindful of the emotional and mental toll healthcare careers can have.

**Wellness and Self-Care:** Huddle nurses emphasized that long-term sustainability in nursing requires strong boundaries and self-care. Several shared stories about evolving career paths—from bedside care to education or entrepreneurship—to find renewed purpose and balance. Participants recognized anxiety, depression, and exhaustion across the workforce and the need for peer-led resilience efforts. Christy Cowgill shared plans for 2026 nurse wellness retreats to support nurses' mental health and retention - [send her an email](#) if you're interested in getting involved.

## Nurse Education

**Oregon Nursing Education Academy:** OHSU's Joanne Noone and Alanna Lowery outlined progress on the Oregon Nursing Education Academy. The academy's impact includes higher certification pass rates (90% versus 69% nationally) and scholarship awards that doubled master's enrollment. The [application deadline](#) for the next cohort is 12/15/2025.

## Resources

**REMINDER:** No Huddle next week!! We'll see you at the Haunted Huddle on 10/31/2025. [Share your scary nursing stories with us!](#)

**Lebanon High School Stadium Contest:** Attendees were encouraged to [vote daily](#) in the T-Mobile Friday Night Lights contest to help Lebanon High School win \$1 million for a new stadium.

**Oregon Health Forum – Battling Health Inequities:** The Lund Report's [Oregon Health Forum](#) on 10/27/2025 will feature OHA's Sejal Hathi and other leaders discussing efforts to address health inequities.

**Providence RN Residency Virtual Info Session:** Providence will host a [virtual information session](#) on 10/23/2025 for its RN residency programs across Oregon and Washington, offering guidance for new graduates seeking placement opportunities.

**Oregon's Most Dangerous Job:** A [new report](#) from the Oregon Journalism Project found that healthcare is Oregon's most dangerous occupation, surpassing industries like construction and manufacturing.

## Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, October 31st, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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