



FRIDAY HUDDLE

Convene • Connect • Collaborate

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



NURSE WORKFORCE

Rural Nurse Scholars Study: The Oregon Rural Nurse Scholars program is looking for input to assist in creating curriculum that is relevant to rural communities. If you have rural nursing experience, help the ORNS program team at the OHSU identify rural nursing competencies by [filling out their survey!](#)

NURSE EDUCATION

Federal Student Loan & Professional Degree Designation Discussion: Participants discussed concerns about potential federal changes affecting whether nursing is classified as a “professional degree.” While nurses would still qualify for federal student loans, changes could impact loan limits. The conversation explored how reduced loan access could create barriers to pursuing master’s and advanced degrees, particularly in nursing education. Broader discussion highlighted longstanding inequities in federal funding between nursing and medical education programs.

Faculty Initiative – Statewide Project Development: OCN provided updates on its Faculty Initiative, which includes state-funded pilot projects aimed at recruiting and retaining nurse faculty. The next phase focuses on developing a statewide strategy to support faculty across all nursing programs in Oregon. A key idea under discussion is a program-agnostic orientation to nurse faculty roles—designed to better prepare nurses transitioning into education and address expectation gaps that contribute to early dissatisfaction. Participants acknowledged that significant pay cuts and unclear role expectations can deter experienced clinicians from entering academia.

Friday Huddle Clinical Placement Opportunity: OCN is exploring offering a clinical placement opportunity for nursing students interested in leadership, policy, and workforce development. Students could support Friday Huddle operations and gain exposure to multiple workforce systems and tools. Reach out to [Jana Bitton](#) if you’re interested.

RESOURCES

OHA Workplace Violence Prevention Webinars: Registration for hospital settings, [March 9th at 11am.](#) Registration for home health/hospice settings, [March 4th at 2pm,](#) or [March 12th at 3pm.](#)

NurseLearn Conference- Student Volunteers Needed!: NurseLearn is looking for 10 students who would be interested in volunteering at their conference on March 9th, in exchange for free admission. [Contact Alayna Amrein](#) for more information.

Oregon Talent Summit: The 2026 summit will be held May 19th at the Salem Convention Center. [Registration is open now.](#)



NEXT FRIDAY HUDDLE:

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

OregonCenterForNursing.org

REGISTER HERE ►

