

## 2025 NJLN CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Speaker Biography

**Kathleen Gialanella, Esq., P.C., RN** is an attorney who practices health law in New Jersey and New York. She is also a nurse and a veteran. Her law practice is devoted to representing nurses and other healthcare providers who face legal issues in connection with their licensure, professional practice, privileges and employment.

Kathleen is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Nursing, New York Law School and Seton Hall University School of Law. She has a Masters of Law in Health Law & Policy. In addition to her legal practice, she lectures widely and has authored a number of articles and book chapters about the legal aspects of health care. She has taught health policy and the legal and ethical aspects of health care to doctoral, masters and baccalaureate students at Teachers College/Columbia University and Seton Hall University's School of Law and College of Nursing.



Kathleen is legal counsel to the New Jersey League for Nursing, past president of the New York and New Jersey Chapters of the American Association of Nurse Attorneys, and the New Jersey Representative of the Army Nurse Corps Association.

**Dr. Barbara Blozen** holds an Ed.D. in higher education from Seton Hall University, an M.A. in nursing from New York University, as well as a certificate in Health Policy and Media Engagement from George Washington University. She holds certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.



Dr. Blozen has been a presenter at conferences throughout the world, including New Jersey Continuing Education Summit, and International Nursing Research Congresses of Sigma Theta Tau International in Prague, Brisbane and Ireland. Dr. Blozen's published work has appeared in many issues of The American Nurse Today, the most recent about her service on the Board of Nursing.

Dr. Blozen has received a number of honors, awards, and grants. Dr. Blozen has served as chair of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Review Team III and is Vice President of Education and Scholarship for NJSNA Region 6.

Dr. Blozen was appointed to the NJ Board of Nursing and continues to serve the public in that role. In August 2023, Dr. Blozen was elected to National Council State Boards of Nursing Board, of Directors and continues to serve in that position. She serves as the President of the NJ Board of Nursing, guiding nursing schools, and their clinical requirements through the pandemic, and supported the Nurse Licensure Compact which became available to nurses in NJ in of November 2021.

**RaDonda Vaught** was the subject of one of the highest profile healthcare criminal cases in recent years. She holds a BSN and a Certificate in Leadership from Western Kentucky University. While working as a BSN prepared registered nurse, Mrs. Vaught committed a medication error that ended the life of a patient in 2017.

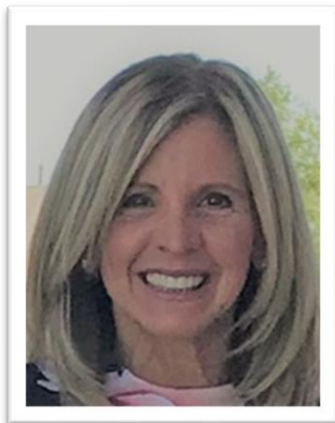
She was charged under administrative law by the Tennessee Department of Health, leading to the revocation of her nursing license by the Tennessee Board of Nursing in a July 2021 hearing. Additionally, she was charged under criminal law and found guilty by jury trial of two felony charges in March of 2022: Negligent Homicide, and Abuse of an Impaired Adult, with placement on an Elder Abuse registry in the state of Tennessee.



Mrs. Vaught is uniquely qualified to speak firsthand on the impact this sentinel event has had on her life and her profession, along with the implications of the legal actions that followed. A passionate advocate for safety and improvement, her story will be one that is not easily forgotten.

## 2025 NJLN PRE-CONVENTION NURSE EDUCATORS PROGRAM

### Speaker Biography



**Bonnie Ross, EdD, RN, CNE, is an ATI Nursing Education Consultant.** She earned her BSN from the University of Delaware, her MA in Nursing Administration from New York University, and her EdD in Educational Leadership from Rowan University. Dr. Ross has been a registered nurse for over 40 years, with over half of those years in nursing education. Her clinical experience primarily involved adult medical-surgical, coronary care, intensive care, and post-anesthesia nursing. Dr. Ross has held nursing faculty positions and leadership roles in ADN, BSN, and ABSN programs and has extensive experience in curriculum development for both traditional and concept-based programs. Dr. Ross is an enthusiastic champion of life-long learning and professional development and is passionate

about paying it forward to the next generation of nurses. She believes that collaboration, teamwork, and respect are essential when developing best practices in teaching and learning in nursing. Her current research activity includes publishing and presenting work depicting the experiences of faculty transitioning from clinical nurse to nurse educator and developing strategies to promote awareness of bias and inclusivity in nursing education.

**Kelly Simmons, DNP, RN, CNE** is a **Nursing Content Strategist** with **ATI Nursing Education**. She has held previous positions as a Chief Academic Officer, Dean, Associate Dean, Director, and faculty member. Dr. Simmons' specialty areas in nursing acute care include critical care nursing and post-anesthesia care recovery. She has 20 years of experience in nursing education, having taught at all levels of pre-licensure and graduate education. Her primary interests in nursing education include curriculum development, faculty development, best practices for active learning to promote clinical judgment, program evaluation, program assessment, and accreditation.



Dr. Simmons also enjoys volunteering for a long-term care facility in Covington, KY as the president of the board and board member. She has received nursing degrees from the University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University, and Samford University.

**Monina Franco-Tantuico, PhD, MSN, BSMT, RN, CNE**, is a full-time faculty member at Rutgers School of Nursing Division of Simulation and Clinical Learning and is a current New Jersey League for Nursing (NJLN) Board of Directors member. She was a critical care nurse before



embarking on a 16-year simulation journey, which extends from being an assistant dean for simulation technology and coordinator of Learning/Simulation Center at Trinitas School of Nursing, manager of New York University Clinical Simulation Learning Center, coordinator of the Rutgers School of Nursing Human Simulation Program for the advanced nursing practice division, and now the simulation coordinator/facilitator of the Nursing Care for Adults with Complex Health Conditions course at the Baccalaureate Level. Her teaching philosophy combines three frameworks: the National League for Nursing (NLN) Jeffries Simulation, the Social Constructivist, and Kolb's Experiential Learning theories. She is an expert in formative

and summative competency-based evaluations using low- to high-fidelity manikins and standardized patients in the diploma, baccalaureate, and graduate nursing education.

Her expertise on active learning and simulation best practices in nursing education led to publications, poster and podium presentations, and workshops. She has been presenting at local, national, and international annual conferences, such as the NJLN, NLN Nursing Education Research Conference (NERC), Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), International Nursing Association of Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL), Rutgers Active Learning Symposium, Seton Hall Reinkemeyer Research Day, and soon at the 2025 NLN Education Summit. Her doctoral dissertation research found that higher debriefing quality has a huge positive impact on cognitive, affective, and behavior learning outcomes, especially when the graduate nursing student and the debriefer are engaged in best debriefing practices. She is expected to receive her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science degree in May 2025 from Rutgers University Graduate School – Newark.