



Silent Struggles, Strong Voices: Advocating for Patients and Families

November 14, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Livestream Webinar

[Register Today](#)

The NC AHEC Nurse Council celebrates the unique role and essential service of nursing in rural healthcare with our NC AHEC 8th Annual Celebration of Rural Nursing in honor of National Rural Health Day.

Rural nurses are the often-unseen pillars of their communities—responding not only to medical needs, but also to deeply rooted social challenges. Silent Struggles, Strong Voices is designed to elevate and empower rural nursing professionals as they confront the silent epidemics affecting patients and families.

This program is supported by NC AHEC Nurse Council and the NC AHEC system.

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8th Annual NC AHEC Statewide Celebration of Rural Nursing Conference

Agenda

- 8:15 a.m. Zoom log-in
- 8:30 a.m. **Bridging the Addiction Treatment Gap**
Alex Elswick, PhD
Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist
Substance Use Prevention & Recovery
University of Kentucky
- 9:30 a.m. **Treatment of Adolescent Tobacco and E-Cigarette Use**
Libby Carver, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE
Family Nurse Practitioner – Duke Employee & Occupational Health
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:40 a.m. **Don't Be Social: Human Trafficking and Social Media**
Judge Toni King
North Carolina District Court Judge – District 14
- 11:40 a.m. **Break**
- 11:45 a.m. **Breaking the Silence: Understanding and Addressing Mental Health Stigma**
Joanna Linn, PhD, LPC, LISAC, LCMHCS
Mental Health Professional - Therapy Educator
Lyndsey Parham, MSW, LCSWA
School Based Behavioral Health Therapist
MAHEC Center for Psychiatry and Mental Wellness
- 12:45 p.m. **Wrap up**
- 1:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

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Fee

\$35

- Cancellations must be in writing (fax, email, or mail)
 - Registrants canceling between two weeks and five full business days prior to the first day of the event are refunded at 70% of the registration fee subject to a minimum \$25 cancellation fee.
 - No refunds or credits will be given for cancellations received less than five full business days prior to the event.
 - Cancellations greater than 2 weeks prior to the event will receive 100% refund.
 - No vouchers will be issued in lieu of a refund.
 - Transfers/substitute(s) welcome (notify in advance of the program)
- Attendance at this activity grants permission to use any photographs, audio, video, or other images from this activity for promotional or educational purposes. Please notify an AHEC staff member if you have concerns.

Credit

Contact Hours: 4.0

Nursing Contact Hours: 4.0 Nursing Contact Hours will be awarded to participants who attend 90% of this educational activity.

Wake Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Nursing Education is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.