

# Call for Proposals Process

## 2027 AWHONN Leadership Development Conference: Nurse Leadership Advancement Track

### Purpose

This document outlines the process for nurses to submit proposals for consideration as podium presentations during the Nurse Leadership Advancement Track of the 2027 Leadership Development Conference. The conference is designed to prepare and support nurse leaders in developing leadership skills that will impact their practice, strengthen team communication and engagement, and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

### Conference Overview

- **Event Date and Location:** February 1-3, 2027, in Charlotte, North Carolina
- **Event structure:** The 2027 AWHONN Leadership Development Conference will include two distinct tracks plus shared general sessions.
  - **LDC Volunteer Leadership Training Track:** AWHONN elected leaders only.
  - **Nurse Leadership Advancement Track:** Open to the public; contact hours available.

### Learning Outcome and Objectives

Conference learning outcome: At the end of this LDC conference, at least 90% of attendees will report improved knowledge of leadership skills that will impact their practice and will identify one action that they will take to strengthen team communication or engagement to improve patient outcomes.

Proposals for the Nurse Leadership Advancement Track should align with one or more of the following learning objectives:

1. Recognize trends in quality, safety, or operational data and translate them into actionable improvement initiatives at the unit level.
2. Strengthen leadership capabilities in communication, conflict resolution, and team engagement to bridge generational differences, support staff retention, and drive consistent improvements in team performance and patient outcomes.
3. Develop influence skills for financial acumen to support informed decision-making, responsible resource utilization, and return on investment while maintaining high-quality patient care.

### Priority Topics

Submissions are encouraged in areas identified through the learning needs assessment, including but not limited to:

|                                                            |                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| QAPI programs                                              | Quality Improvement initiatives (i.e., process measures, outcomes, and high-reliability organizations) |
| Data interpretation and data management                    | Budgeting, ROI, and finance                                                                            |
| Conflict resolution                                        | Trauma-informed leadership                                                                             |
| Communication and influence skills, stakeholder engagement | Staff retention                                                                                        |
| Workforce resilience                                       | Generational gaps in teams, team engagement                                                            |
| Nursing professional development                           | Designations and certifications, including MLOC, PQCs, CMS, RMC, and TJC                               |

## Who May Submit

- Registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse educators, nurse leaders, quality/safety professionals, and interprofessional collaborators working in women's, obstetric, and neonatal nursing or aligned leadership roles may submit.
- Submissions may represent completed projects, evidence-based practice initiatives, quality improvement work, operational leadership practices, professional development programs, or innovative leadership strategies.
- At least one presenting author must be available to present live, in-person, during the conference and complete all required presenter documentation by the stated deadline.

## Presentation Format

- Podium presentation:** A live educational session aligned with the priority topics. *Recommended length: 60 minutes, maximum presenters: Two (2)*

## Submission Requirements

Each submission must include the following information:

| Requirement                                | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Presenter Information</b>       | Name, credentials, organization, title, role, email, phone number, bio, AWHONN membership status, if applicable, and acknowledgment of presenter expectations.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Co-Presenter Information (optional)</b> | Name, credentials, organization, title, role, email, phone number, bio, AWHONN membership status, if applicable, and acknowledgment of presenter expectations.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Presentation Title</b>                  | Clear, concise title that reflects the focus of the session.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Short Description</b>                   | In 50 words or less, describe what this session will cover and why it is relevant to learners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Topic Category</b>                      | Select the topic areas from the priority topic list.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Abstract Narrative</b>                  | Provide a structured summary of the work which details the outline of the presentation: 300-500 words.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Learning Objective Alignment</b>        | Select at least one conference learning objective supported by the presentation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Session Specific Objectives</b>         | List three learner takeaways or session-specific objectives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Learner Engagement Techniques</b>       | Describe specific techniques that will be used to engage the audience. Presentation and Q&A are not learner engagement techniques. Examples could include audience polling, interactive dialog, case studies, etc.                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>References</b>                          | Include current evidence, standards, guidelines, or data sources that support the content.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Prior Presentation Disclosure</b>       | AWHONN seeks innovative and original content submissions. The content should be new and not previously shared through prior presentations or publications. If the submitted content was presented or published previously, please share details of the prior presentations and publications, and whether you are submitting new or additional information. |
| <b>Financial Disclosure</b>                | Disclosure of commercial interest, conflicts of interest, evidence base, and whether the content is free from product promotion or bias.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Recommended Abstract Structure

Authors are encouraged to organize the abstract using the following headings:

- **Background/Significance:** Describe the leadership issue, practice gap, data trend, or organizational need.
- **Purpose/Aim:** State the goal of the project, initiative, or session.
- **Methods/Approach:** Describe the leadership strategy, intervention, implementation process, stakeholder engagement, or data approach.
- **Outcomes/Results:** Summarize measurable results, observed impact, lessons learned, or expected outcomes if the work is in progress.
- **Implications for Nurse Leaders:** Explain how attendees can apply the content to strengthen leadership practice, team communication, engagement, retention, resource utilization, or patient outcomes.

## Submission Process

1. Review the call for proposals, priority topics, learning outcome, and learning objectives.
2. List the topic category that best fits the proposed content.
3. Prepare a structured abstract using the recommended headings and word limit.
4. Confirm that all authors have approved the submission and can meet the presenter expectations.
5. Complete the online submission form and all required fields at <https://abs-author.bravuratechnologies.com/login/ae8c3cd7-475c-2bb7-92f0-2pqr33701535>.
7. Submit by September 8, 2026. Late or incomplete submissions may not be reviewed.

## Review and Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by the conference planning committee and/or designated reviewers using a standardized rubric. Reviewers may consider the following criteria:

| Review Criterion                     | What Reviewers Will Look For                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Content Alignment</b>             | Clear connection to the conference purpose, learning outcome, learning objectives, and priority leadership topics.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Content Clarity</b>               | Well-organized abstract with a clear outline, details, and support of learning outcomes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Content Application</b>           | Practical content that attendees can translate into their leadership practice and strategies to strengthen team engagement, communication, retention, resource utilization, or improved outcomes.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Learner Engagement Strategies</b> | Speakers plan the presentation with appropriate learning engagement strategies that are creative and will allow learners to interact and engage meaningfully with the content (e.g., dialogue, self-reflection, discussion groups, case study analysis, peer review, problem-based learning, simulation, interactive polling/quiz, or other active learning strategy). |
| <b>References</b>                    | Includes at least five references from peer-reviewed journals (may include other references in addition to this). References are relevant and are less than seven years old (except for seminal works, which must be noted).                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>New Presentation</b>              | Content is new and has never been presented. -OR-<br>The presenter (or a team member) has presented this previously but has updated this with new original content.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Free of Commercial Bias</b>       | Content appears free of commercial bias.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Notification and Acceptance

- Submitters will be notified of acceptance or non-selection by October 19, 2026.
- Accepted presenters must confirm participation by November 2, 2026. Presenters are responsible for travel and accommodation for the conference.
- The planning committee may request revisions to the title, abstract, learning objectives, content outline, or presentation format to support conference needs and contact-hour requirements.

## Presenter Expectations

- Present live, in-person, at the assigned conference session time.
- Submit required presenter forms, including biography, financial relationship disclosure, and any contact-hour documentation by the stated deadlines.
- Prepare educational content that is evidence-informed, balanced, inclusive, and free from commercial bias.
- Use respectful, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive language.
- Meet slide, handout, accessibility, and formatting requirements provided by AWHONN.
- Meet all deadlines.

## Planning Timeline

| Milestone                  | Target Date                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Call for proposals opens   | July 27, 2026                 |
| Submission deadline        | September 8, 2026             |
| Review period              | September 9 - October 5, 2026 |
| Notifications sent         | October 19, 2026              |
| Presenter acceptance due   | November 2, 2026              |
| Final slides/materials due | January 4, 2027               |
| Live event                 | February 1-3, 2027            |

## FAQ

**I am not a member of AWHONN. Can I still submit a proposal?** Yes, membership to AWHONN is not a requirement to submit a proposal.

**Do you accept proposals previously published?** AWHONN seeks innovative and original content submissions. The content of proposals should be new and not previously shared through prior presentations or publications. If the submitted content was presented or published previously, you will be asked to share details of prior presentations and publications, and whether you are submitting new or additional information.

**Do you accept panel presentations?** No, we do not accept panel presentations. See proposal guidelines for the maximum number of presenters for presentations.

**How are proposals reviewed?** The Nurse Leadership Advancement Committee reviews all proposals for podium presentations. Each proposal will be rated by a minimum of three reviewers using a rubric based on the criteria for each presentation. After the initial review, the committee will select the highest-scoring proposals that also align best with the conference goals.

**Do presenters receive a reduced registration fee?** Yes, accepted presenters are eligible for a \$100 discount off registration.

**Other questions?** Please email [sfassett@awhonn.org](mailto:sfassett@awhonn.org) if you have further questions about the submission process.