



2026 Setting the Pace Speaker Information Form



Christopher (Chris) Parker, MSN, RN, CNL, CEN, CFRN, CPEN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, TCRN, NRP

Biography.

Christopher Parker is a nurse educator and emergency nursing leader with more than 25 years of experience in healthcare, beginning his career in 1999 as a prehospital provider before transitioning into emergency nursing and professional development. He currently serves as the Clinical Professional Development Manager at Centra Health, where he is responsible for systemwide nursing and clinical education across four acute care hospitals, including oversight of education for four Emergency Departments.

Chris holds a Master of Science in Nursing and maintains advanced board and specialty certifications that reflect a commitment to lifelong learning, clinical excellence, and leadership development. His background includes roles spanning bedside emergency nursing, flight nursing, emergency department education, and nursing professional development. He is national faculty and course director for ENA's TNCC and ENPC programs, as well as AHA's BLS, ACLS, and PALS courses, and brings more than a decade of experience as EMS faculty in both academic and clinical settings. His approach to clinical education emphasizes real-world application, systems thinking, and the translation of evidence-based practice into meaningful learning experiences that improve outcomes.

Chris currently serves as President-elect of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Board of Directors and has held numerous leadership roles at the chapter, state, and

national levels. His contributions to emergency nursing leadership and education have been recognized with multiple honors, including the Virginia Nurses Association Nurse Educator Leadership Excellence Award in 2024 and the Virginia ENA Nurse Leader Award in 2025.

Chris is deeply committed to advancing emergency nursing through intentional leadership, mentorship, and collaboration. He believes strong teams are built by investing in people, creating psychologically safe learning environments, and leading with purpose to ensure emergency nurses are supported, prepared, and positioned to thrive in an evolving healthcare landscape.

Presentation

“Holding the Line: Who We Are as Emergency Nurses”

Summary

Holding the Line: Who We Are as Emergency Nurses is a reflective keynote on professional identity at a time when emergency nursing is changing fast. As our work expands beyond episodic care into sustained, complex roles shaped by system pressures, this session grounds nurses in who we are and how we show up for patients and for each other. It also explores how the Emergency Nurses Association stands alongside emergency nurses by listening, amplifying our voice, and helping us hold the center as we move forward together.

Learning Objectives.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. **Describe** the core elements of professional identity in emergency nursing and how that identity is evolving in today’s practice environment.
2. **Recognize** the system pressures that strain professional identity, including role expansion, burnout, workplace violence, and turnover.
3. **Reflect** on how emergency nurses and the Emergency Nurses Association work together to amplify the voice of the profession and hold the center during times of change.

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