

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kathy Mertens Inducted President of the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing

Pitman, NJ – Kathy Mertens, DNP, MN, MPH, RN, of Seattle, WA, was inducted as president of the [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing \(AAACN\)](http://aaacn.org) during the association's 43rd Annual Conference in Lake Buena Vista, FL, May 9-12.

Mertens will serve a 1-year term as president, working with other members of the [AAACN Board of Directors](#) (BOD) as they provide education and professional support to 4,300 AAACN members. During her term, she will help advance AAACN's mission and goals, advocate for the ambulatory care nursing specialty, and collaborate with other organizations to improve patient care nationwide.

"I'm honored to serve AAACN as president," Mertens said. "Among our shared goals is inspiring, innovating, and influencing to shape effective approaches to patient care and population health. We'll work to ensure ambulatory care RNs are recognized as leaders and their voices heard throughout the health care system, in the policy arena, and in our communities. There needs to be greater understanding of the tremendous impact we have on patient care and our value in today's health care system."

During her induction, Mertens told attendees that she encourages members to get involved in AAACN by using their collective expertise to measure the outcomes of their work and help the public understand the high-level skills and leadership value nurses bring to the table.

"The BOD is expanding our partnerships and collaborations with other organizations, sending AAACN representatives out across the country to serve on influential commissions, committees, and councils," Mertens said. "We're building education programs for all nurses and nursing students to broaden our influence as ambulatory care nursing experts."

AAACN Service and Professional Career

Mertens is a nationally recognized ambulatory care nursing leader with more than 30 years' experience. Currently, she works as Associate Chief Nurse and Assistant Administrator of Ambulatory Care Nursing at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA. During her career as a nurse executive, she has led patient safety and nursing practice initiatives, strategic partnerships to enhance care management, medical record innovations, and quality improvement program. She's also an author, speaker, and researcher on a wide variety of ambulatory care nursing topics.

Mertens has been an active member of AAACN for over 15 years, serving in many roles that include Care Coordination and Transition Management (CCTM) expert panelist, CCTM Core Curriculum chapter author, and Leadership Special Interest Group Chair.

In her personal life, Mertens enjoys tap dancing as well as spending time outdoors hiking and skiing in the Pacific Northwest.

For more information about AAACN, visit aaacn.org; call: 1-800-AMB-NURS (1-800-262-6877) or email: aaacn@aaacn.org.

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The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) is a welcoming, unifying community for registered nurses in all ambulatory care settings.