Texas ENA Conference Speaker Bios
Emergency Nurses: Stronger Together
December 4, 2026

Courtney Edwards, DNP, MPH, RN, CCRN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC, FAEN



Courtney Edwards is the Director of Trauma Community Outreach & BioTel EMS at Parkland Health, Dallas, Texas. Dr. Edwards is responsible for design, implementation, and evaluation of hospital-based injury prevention and outreach programs for a Level I Trauma Center. In this role, she is focused on building community partnerships, responsive program growth/improvement, and professional development of IVP professionals. Within the Parkland/UTSW BioTel EMS system, Dr. Edwards supports the operations of 13 EMS agencies and an EMS social work division supporting over 2.4 million people in the Dallas metro area through 260,000 EMS-911 calls annually. Courtney achieved a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Texas Christian University and Master of Public Health from University of North Texas Health Sciences Center. Dr. Edwards continues to provide direct bedside care as a member of the Trauma Team.

Melissa Kendrick, MBA/MHA, BSN, RN, LP



Melissa is a 36-year paramedic and 27 year flight nurse. She has worked EMS in rural and suburban Texas. She was an ICU nurse and flight nurse at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, TX for 17 years. She was the Clinical Education Coordinator for California and Texas for PHI Air Medical, and she is currently the Chief Flight Nurse for St. Joseph Air Med 12, a two-helicopter program in College Station and Centerville, Texas. She holds a Bachelor of Science in both Biomedical Science and in Nursing, and she has a Masters in both Business and Healthcare Administration. In her off time, she enjoys vacationing with her family in the mountains!

Lata Kleypas, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A



Lata Kleypas, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, is a dedicated Registered Nurse specializing in emergency and forensic nursing, with experience in sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse. She has served as a OC Forensic Nurse with Houston Methodist since 2020 and as a System Full-Time Forensic Nurse since September 2025. Previously, she served as a Clinical and Charge Nurse in the Houston Methodist Baytown Emergency Department from 2016 to 2025. Lata currently serves as President of the Houston Methodist System Human Trafficking Taskforce and has been an ACLS Instructor since 2019. She was recently appointed Chair of the newly established TXENA Forensic Nursing Committee. Her professional passion centers on advocating for vulnerable populations, supporting survivors, and advancing forensic nursing practice through education, collaboration, and leadership.

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Rhonda Manor Coombes, BSN, RN, TCRN



Mrs. Manor Coombes has been teaching a falls course to the community of Lakeway for the past eight years. Collaborating with STRAC, she teaches the Falls Awareness Lengthens Lives Strategies course to those who have fallen and family of those who have fallen. Rhonda Manor Coombes served as the 2025 Texas ENA President. She is active in outside organizations such as Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum (TTCF), Texas EMS and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF), EN26 Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair, Capital Area of Texas Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC) Injury Prevention/Education Committee and Past President and active member of Austin ENA. Rhonda is the Trauma Program Manager for Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Lakeway, Texas. Rhonda continues to help the Emergency Department as a stretcher-side nurse.

Crissie Richardson, MS, BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN



Crissie Richardson has been an Emergency Nurse for 20 years. She is currently the Trauma PI Coordinator for Ascension Texas. Crissie has served in the Texas Emergency Nurses Association for over 10 years in various roles to include Pediatric Committee Chair and Government Affairs Vice-Chair. She has played a key leader role in launching the We Have a Little Emergency (W.H.A.L.E.) program across the state of Texas by collaborating with emergency nurses and prehospital providers. She has served on the Texas ENA Board of Directors as a Director and as President in 2021.