2018 ANCC Pathway to Excellence® Conference Track Descriptions:

Track 1: Shared Decision-Making & Leadership
Shared Decision-Making abstracts focus on actions implemented to establish a culture of collaboration and inclusion of direct care nurses in decision-making and cultivating Interprofessional partnerships.

Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Direct care nurses' input into decision-making influenced care delivery and/or operational decisions that changed practice and/or workflow;
- Direct care nurses' engagement in the decision-making process of product evaluation;
- Interprofessional process to address ethical concerns;
- Direct care nurses' input into hiring nursing staff; and,
- Interprofessional collaboration is integral to the organization, engaging staff, building teamwork, and strengthening the shared governance culture.

Leadership abstracts focus on initiatives demonstrating effective organizational leadership at the staff, middle and executive levels in all work settings that fosters a foundation of sustaining a culture of excellence, healthy work environments, and impactful leadership.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Diversity and quality (e.g., accessibility, advocacy, and effectiveness) in nursing leadership;
- Partnership with staff to enhance organizational effectiveness and positive nursing practice environment;
- Longitudinal impact of transformational leadership and Pathway to Excellence® culture on the organization, nurses, and patients;
- Clinical leadership involving advanced practice roles and/or educational roles;
- Improvements resulting from innovative leadership in times of organizational changes; and,
- Leadership that engages direct care nurses in resource allocation, cost management, and patient advocacy.
- Cultivating partnerships within organizations across the continuum of care (retail clinics, hospice, home care, and non-traditional settings);
- Innovations in long-term care;
- Leadership succession planning.

Track 2: Safety & Quality
Safety abstracts focus on actions implemented to protect the safety of staff, patients, and their families through safety initiatives, policies, and processes across all practice environments.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Safeguards implemented to monitor patient and staff-related events, as well as professional practice behaviors (Lateral violence);
- Implementation of measures to prevent violent incidents against staff and patients in the organization;
- Safety practices that incorporate a collaborative approach to staffing;
- Safety resolution strategies involving staff nurses;
- Safety initiatives in non-traditional settings (e.g. retail clinics, hospice, home care, ambulatory, pre and post-acute care settings, etc); and
- Disaster preparedness processes to protect staff, patients, and families from unforeseen events

Quality abstracts must be evidence-based and focused on improving and sustaining quality outcomes across all practice environments.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Organization-wide quality initiatives implemented based on internal and external benchmarking;
- Developing and revising patient care standards and policies as patient advocates driven by strong missions, visions, goals, and values;
- Quality initiatives developed through interprofessional collaboration; and,
- Quality initiatives in non-traditional settings (e.g. retail clinics, hospice, home care, ambulatory, pre and post-acute care settings, etc).

Track 3: Well-Being
Well-Being abstracts focus on "out-of-the-box" strategies, process improvements, and exemplars that support staff in the face of impending nursing shortage to sustain employee engagement and satisfaction.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Organizational initiatives that promote work-life balance;
- Nurses' contribution and participation in community service, patient advocacy, and improving population health;
- Innovative staffing process to assist staff in achieving a balance between work and personal life; and,
- Innovative programs providing opportunities during work hours for nurses to care for themselves;
- Developing a Culture of Health;
- Staff-driven community initiatives; and,
- Generational differences.

Track 4: Professional Development
Professional Development abstracts demonstrate the value in developing and empowering staff to lead from the bedside.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Innovative programs to develop, support and guide mentors, preceptors, or other nursing experts;
- Comprehensive orientation programs that include individualization of learning needs and clinical experiences;
- Organizations demonstrating lifelong learning, ongoing education, and professional development activities as a value;
- Transition to practice strategies;
- Retention and recruitment initiatives; and,
- Empowering emerging nurse leaders.

Abstracts must evidence nursing staff or management activities related to one of the topic areas and focus on one or more conference learning goals/outcomes. Abstracts must include the purpose and description of the nursing initiative, implementation strategies, evaluation of the impact/effectiveness on the organization, and implications for nursing practice.

Elements of Abstract Submission:

Section Character Limit (2,500 total)	Section
300	***Purpose (What):*** Identify the overall goal of the initiative.
500	***Relevance/Significance (Why):*** Describe the initiative's relevance and importance in context of the conference goal(s) and why the initiative was necessary.
1000	***Strategy and Implementation (How):*** Describe the initiative actions and the process of implementation.
400	***Evaluation/Outcomes (So what):*** Describe analytic findings and include actual evaluation data demonstrating the value of the initiative change (success or failure).
300	***Implications for Practice (And now):*** Discuss specific implications for nursing practice.