



2026
WOMAN
of the YEAR

Friday, June 5, 2026
5:30PM

THE QUEEN MARY
Long Beach, CA

2026
WOMAN of the
YEAR GALA



Program

JUNE 5, 2026

Queen Mary-Long Beach, CA

- 5:30 PM** **Doors Open**
 - 6:00 PM** **Welcome**
 - 6:15 PM** **Captain's Welcome with Anne Tanner**
 - 6:30 PM** **Dinner Service Begins**
 - 6:40 PM** **Welcome Remarks**
 - 7:30 PM** **Panel Discussion**
 - 8:45 PM** **Award Ceremony Honoring Anne Tanner**
 - 9:00 PM** **Scholarship Remarks**
 - 9:05 PM** **Raffle/Closing**
 - 9:30 PM** **Closing Remarks**
 - 9:30 PM** **Networking**
- 

MESSAGE FROM WHA PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2026 Woman of the Year Gala. For nearly half a century, Women in Health Administration has broken barriers and built bridges for female leaders across our industry. Since 1980, we have engaged women in our mission to promote and support the advancement of women in healthcare leadership. From networking, to education, to job opportunities, we seek to meet the needs of our members and supporters. We value community, diversity, and sisterhood, and believe that relationships are the cornerstone of WHA.

The 2026 Woman of the Year Gala symbolizes the commitment and perseverance of those who came before us, and those who will come after us. We represent the past, the present, and the future. WE are the legacy of WHA!

Tonight, we honor that legacy by spotlighting a phenomenal trailblazer who will forever leave her mark on the healthcare and leadership community, Anne Tanner. Anne is a powerhouse in our field, not only serving as a strong executive leader but acting as a steadfast advocate for the advancement of healthcare professionals. Above all, Anne truly leads with her heart. Her passion for lifting others is evident in the countless leaders she has personally mentored throughout our industry, and in her dedicated support of higher learning through the promotion of scholarship programs. As she embarks upon the next chapter in her journey, we celebrate a leader who has permanently reshaped the future of our healthcare community.

On a personal note, tonight marks a deeply bittersweet milestone for me, as this is my final year serving as your WHA President and the last Gala I will have the honor to host. Reflecting on my years of leading this incredible community, my heart is filled with immense gratitude for your trust, your partnership, and your unwavering support. Serving as WHA President has truly been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. As we celebrate Anne tonight, I am encouraged to see both the living legacy of our progress and the incredibly bright horizon of our future.

To every sponsor and supporter, thank you! Your generosity fuels our purpose and propels our vision forward. Because of you, we are able to honor the past and build the future.

To the members of the Governing Board and Advisory Board, both past and present, thank you for your ongoing commitment to WHA. You have volunteered countless hours and continue to use your talents, skills, expertise, and networks to elevate this mission.

And finally, to the members, WHA would not be here without you. We exist because of you. Thank you for your love and support of this community. You are truly the lifeline of WHA!

With heartfelt gratitude,
Tricia Gray
2026 WHA President

WOMEN IN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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Events

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Each year, WHA honors a woman who demonstrates and is aligned with the mission, vision and values of WHA. The honoree is chosen from a diverse group of several outstanding candidates. WHA celebrates the honoree's contributions at the Woman of the Year Gala which is widely sponsored and attended by providers, entities, and partners.

2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR HONOREE

Women in Health Administration is proud to recognize Anne Tanner as our 2026 Woman of the Year, honoring a remarkable leader whose career has transformed healthcare delivery, inspired generations of professionals, and advanced excellence in patient care for more than four decades.

Anne's leadership journey is defined by vision, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to those she serves. Throughout her distinguished career, she has led complex healthcare organizations through periods of growth, transformation, and challenge, always placing patients, families, and caregivers at the center of every decision. From pediatric and oncology services to ambulatory and acute care operations, Anne has consistently elevated the quality of care while fostering environments where healthcare professionals can thrive.



Anne Tanner
MN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

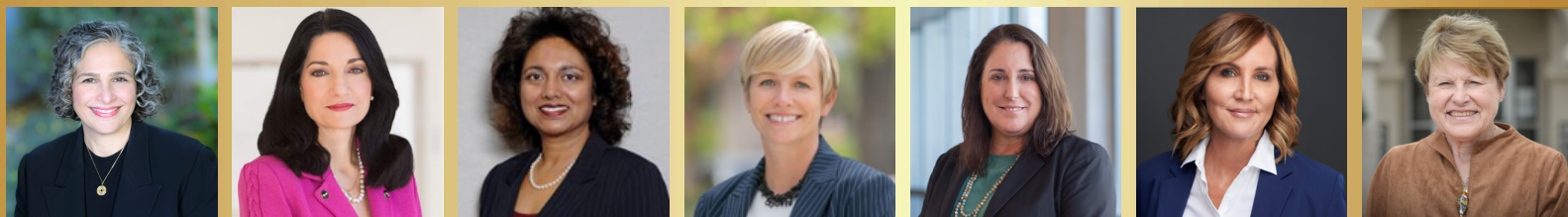
As Executive Director of Patient Care Services at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), now part of Rady Children's Health, Anne continues to shape the future of healthcare through innovative care models, workforce development strategies, and operational excellence. Her leadership has touched countless lives, not only through the programs she has developed and the services she has improved, but through the culture of compassion, collaboration, and accountability she creates wherever she serves.

Beyond her impressive professional accomplishments, Anne is widely recognized as a mentor, connector, and champion for emerging leaders. She has devoted countless hours to guiding others, opening doors, and creating opportunities for healthcare professionals to grow and succeed. Through her leadership with the American College of Healthcare Executives and numerous community and professional organizations, she has helped cultivate the next generation of healthcare executives while strengthening the profession as a whole.

Anne exemplifies the qualities that Women in Health Administration seeks to celebrate: courageous leadership, lifelong learning, service to others, and a steadfast commitment to advancing healthcare. Her influence extends far beyond the organizations she has led. It can be seen in the careers she has shaped, the innovations she has championed, and the countless patients and families who have benefited from her dedication.

Today, we celebrate not only Anne's extraordinary achievements, but also the legacy she continues to build, a legacy rooted in excellence, integrity, mentorship, and service. She is a role model for women across healthcare and an inspiration to all who aspire to lead with purpose and impact.

Congratulations, Anne Tanner, Women in Health Administration's 2026 Woman of the Year. We are honored to recognize your outstanding contributions and grateful for the lasting difference you continue to make in healthcare and in the lives of so many.



PAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR HONOREES

2025 June Simmons, Founding President and CEO
Partners in Care Foundation

2023 Julie Sprengel, President and Chief Executive Officer
CommonSpirit Health's California Region

2022 Jill Martin, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Cedars-Sinai Medical Network

2019 Shawn Sheffield, Chief Strategy Officer
Keck Medicine of USC

2018 Dr. Margaret Peterson, President
Dignity Health-California Hospital Medical Center

2017 Johnese Spisso, President of UCLA Health, Chief
Executive Officer of UCLA Hospital System and Associate
Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences

2016 Lara Khouri, Chief Executive Officer
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital



Featured Panel Discussion: Waves of Influence: Charting the Future of Healthcare Leadership



Panelist

Dr. Kimberly Long is a senior healthcare executive with more than 35 years of experience in healthcare leadership, education, consulting, and executive coaching. She currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Association of California Nurse Leaders and is a retired hospital CEO. Her extensive career includes executive roles as COO, Senior Vice President, System Chief Nursing Officer, and Vice President of Clinical Services. Dr. Long also works as a Legal Nurse Consultant and Expert Witness. She holds a Doctor of Health Administration, Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing degrees, and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Melanie Fontes Rainer, J.D., M.S.Ed., is Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer at L.A. Care Health Plan, where she leads strategic planning, organizational transformation, performance management, and community investment initiatives. Prior to joining L.A. Care, she served in senior leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, overseeing privacy, cybersecurity, and civil rights programs, and advising Secretary Xavier Becerra on key healthcare policy initiatives. She also served as a Senior Advisor at the California Department of Justice, helping defend the Affordable Care Act and advance healthcare competition and consumer protections. Fontes Rainer holds degrees from the University of Arizona and Brooklyn College.



Panelist



Panelist

Bonnie J. Panlasigui, MHA, FACHE, is Senior Vice President and Market Area Leader for Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara, overseeing operations for 6,900 employees and nearly 500,000 health plan members. With more than 20 years of healthcare leadership experience, she has held executive and president-level roles with HCA, Alameda Health System, Dignity Health, and Summa Health System. In 2025, she was elected to the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives. A passionate mentor and advocate for women and minorities in healthcare leadership, Bonnie holds degrees from the George Washington University and the University of Southern California.

Nate Shinagawa is Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of UCI Health, overseeing daily operations for a six-hospital health system with more than \$4.5 billion in annual net revenue and 13,000 employees. With over 15 years of healthcare leadership experience, he has held executive roles at Banner Health and the Guthrie Clinic. He also served for a decade as an elected county legislator in Ithaca, New York, advocating for improved healthcare access and quality. Nate has been recognized by Becker's Healthcare as a COO to Know and received both his BA and MHA from Cornell University.



Panelist



Moderator

Anne McCune is a nationally recognized healthcare executive with extensive experience leading academic medical centers, healthcare consulting organizations, and nonprofit initiatives. She currently serves as CEO of the Carol Emmott Foundation, a national organization dedicated to advancing gender equity in healthcare leadership. Throughout her career, Anne has held senior leadership roles, including Chief Operating Officer positions at Stanford Children's Health, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, and City of Hope, where she led major growth, transformation, and capital projects. A trusted advisor, board member, and investor, she is recognized for her expertise in strategy, operations, organizational transformation, and healthcare innovation. Anne holds degrees from the College of Wooster, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



Women in Health Administration of Southern California (WHA) is a nonprofit professional association for women healthcare leaders.

Since its founding in 1980, WHA has grown significantly. Today, we are pleased to welcome a distinguished group of healthcare executives and leaders who are making a meaningful impact across the industry. Our members represent a broad spectrum of sectors—including nonprofit and for-profit payers, providers, government and regulatory agencies, and ancillary service organizations.

While striving to elevate the healthcare industry, each member raises her own bar—leading by example, giving back to future professionals and leaders, and contributing to the continued advancement of our field.

We are committed to mentoring young women and championing the visibility of female healthcare professionals. Our dedication to students—the future leaders of healthcare—is reflected in our annual scholarship program, which supports qualified graduate students. Additionally, we celebrate and elevate current leaders through our annual Woman of the Year Gala, sharing their stories and inviting them to inspire others by speaking at our events.



Woman of the Year Sponsors

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Women in Health Administration extends its sincere gratitude to our members, sponsors, partners, and supporters whose generosity and commitment make our mission possible.

Your support helps advance women in healthcare leadership through mentorship, advocacy, and professional development opportunities that strengthen our industry and communities.

As we celebrate Anne Tanner, our 2026 Woman of the Year, we honor her exceptional leadership, dedication to excellence, and lasting impact on healthcare. Her career exemplifies the values of service, mentorship, and innovation that inspire future generations of healthcare leaders.

Thank you for partnering with WHA to build a stronger future for healthcare leadership.

Together, we are making a difference.

Tonight's gala is approved for one ACHE Qualified Education credit. To obtain your credit, please self-report this activity by logging into your ACHE Member Portal, navigating to your My ACHE dashboard, and entering the event details under your Continuing Education section.

2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

ANNE TANNER

MN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Executive Nurse Leader ✦ Mentor ✦ ACHE SoCal Past President



Anne is a respected healthcare executive and transformational leader whose career has spanned more than four decades across pediatric, oncology, ambulatory, and acute care services.

As a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and Past President of ACHE Southern California, Anne is celebrated for her unwavering dedication to mentorship, innovation, and cultivating the next generation of healthcare leaders. Her leadership has strengthened patient care excellence, elevated nursing practice, and advanced collaborative healthcare strategy throughout Southern California.

Anne's service and mentorship leave an enduring legacy—one that reflects the very mission and values this recognition seeks to honor.

Congratulations, Anne!



We honor your vision,
the impact you've
made and your
continued success

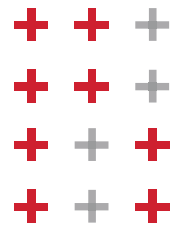
Congratulations to tonight's honoree

Anne Tanner, MN, RN, NEA-BC

Your distinguished leadership and steadfast dedication to advancing community health stand as a powerful inspiration to us all.



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Neil and grandson
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Dignity Health is a proud supporter of
Women in Health Administration (WHA).

Congratulations to Anne Tanner, MN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE,
Executive Director of Patient Care Services at Children's Hospital
of Orange County (CHOC), now part of Rady Children's Health,
for receiving the 2026 WHA Woman of the Year.

Thank you, WHA, for supporting the professional growth and
advancement of women in administrative healthcare positions.

Hello humankindness®



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2026 Women in Health Administration Woman of the Year Gala



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Anne Tanner!

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Let's raise a glass to Anne!

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At CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, we believe that strong leadership transforms healthcare. We are proud to partner with Women in Health Administration in recognizing and supporting women who are shaping the future of our industry.

Congratulations to Anne Tanner, whose visionary leadership, commitment to excellence, and dedication to developing others exemplify the very best of healthcare leadership. We are honored to celebrate her well-deserved recognition as the 2026 Woman of the Year.

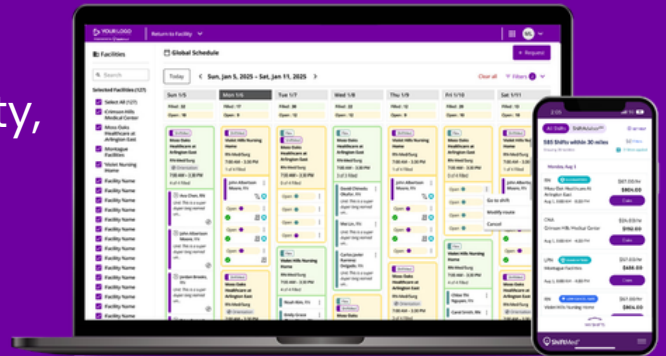
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2026 Woman of the Year honoree

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