

4th Annual

RURAL NEVADA TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM



W W W . N N E M S C . O R G

2026

MARCH 6, 2026

ELKO CONFERENCE CENTER



RURAL NEVADA TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM



MARCH 6, 2026

everyone should attend full day

MORNING SESSIONS

8:00 AM

Doors Open

Stop by the registration table to get your packet of information and sign in for your CEU's!

8:00 AM

Blood Drive Starts

Ruby Mountain #3

8:30 AM

Opening

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Paul Ward

8:40 AM

Great Basin College Programs

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Staci Warnert & Jamie Carlson

8:55 AM

State of the State

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Bobbie Sullivan

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MORNING SESSIONS

9:05 AM

Trauma in Pregnancy

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Dr. Kersten Milligan

9:45 AM

BREAK

Be Prepared for an Engaging Question!

10:05 AM

Pediatric Burns Assessment and Manage.

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Courtney Lawrence

10:35 AM

Going Over The Bars

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Vanessa Holzmann

11:05 AM

Improving Door-to-ECG Times in ACS - Presenting Patients

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Breanna Schumacher

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AFTERNOON SESSIONS

11:35 AM

Enhancing EMS in Nevada's Rural Communities

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Beth Malina

12:05 PM

LUNCH

Lunch is provided in the back of the room.

1:00 PM

Strengthening Rural EMS

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Amanda Brown

1:40 PM

Rural Red Petrol for Hemorrhagic Shock

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Dr. Robert Bryant

2:10 PM

Working Together For Patient Care

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Paul Ward

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AFTERNOON SESSIONS

2:40 PM

BREAK

Be Prepared for an Engaging Question!

3:00 PM

Appropriate Facility

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Chris McHan

3:30 PM

Kids are F!@#% Scary

Ruby Mountain #1 & #2

Presenter: Sam Schwab

4:30 PM

Wrap Up

Raffles, Door Prizes and more!

Presenter: Paul Ward

*Stay for the
Raffle!*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MORNING SESSIONS

GBC COLLEGE EMS UPDATES

This session will highlight upcoming enrollment dates, recent and planned curriculum changes, evolving accreditation and certification requirements, and new initiatives designed to strengthen student success and workforce readiness. Whether you are a current student, prospective applicant, or community partner, this session provides a clear look at program pathways, enhancements, and opportunities across GBC's growing health education offerings.

STATE OF THE STATE

There will be a State of the State overview of EMS in Nevada and will highlight statewide EMS initiatives, regulatory and legislative updates, workforce and system challenges, data and quality improvement efforts, and priorities shaping the future of emergency medical care across Nevada's urban and rural communities.

TRAUMA IN PREGNANCY

This presentation examines the unique challenges of obstetric trauma, highlighting the moment when one patient becomes two. It covers high-risk mechanisms of injury, rapid assessment of pregnant patients, prehospital interventions, and the basics of emergency delivery, including preparation and hemorrhage control.

PEDIATRIC BURNS

This session provides an overview of evaluating and managing burn injuries in children. Topics include burn assessment, pediatric-specific TBSA estimation, initial stabilization, fluid resuscitation, pain control, and wound care. Child abuse recognition and criteria for burn-center referral will also be highlighted.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MORNING SESSIONS

GOING OVER THE BARS!

Let's discuss the most common traumatic injuries associated with mountain biking, including fractures, head injuries, and soft-tissue trauma. Participants will review mechanisms of injury unique to trail and terrain-based incidents. Immediate on-scene assessment and initial treatment considerations will be covered to support effective early intervention.

IMPROVING DOOR TO ECG TIMES

This session highlights the critical importance of reducing door-to-ECG times for patients presenting with potential acute coronary syndrome (ACS), particularly given the impact on STEMI outcomes, morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs. The presentation emphasizes the use of quality improvement methods and change theory.

ENHANCING EMS IN NEVADA

Learn about the American Heart Association's statewide cardiac and stroke systems of care and their implementation with Nevada EMS agencies. Participants will learn how EMS decision-making from dispatch through patient destination directly impacts stroke and cardiac patient outcomes, particularly in rural settings.

RURAL EMS SUPPORT

Explore how Flex EMS Supplemental Grant funding is strengthening rural EMS agencies across Nevada. Topics include enhanced training opportunities, workforce recruitment and retention, and operational support that improves service to rural communities.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK

Rural Red Petrol for Hemorrhagic shock: Do we really need blood? This session will review evidence for and against the benefits of prehospital transfusion. Non-blood product resuscitative interventions will also be reviewed.

APPROPRIATE FACILITY

This session examines why the closest facility is not always the most appropriate destination for patients requiring definitive trauma or specialty care. It highlights how EMS agencies can collaborate with local hospitals to develop and implement effective bypass protocols based on real-time facility capabilities. Elko County Ambulance's experience with trauma bypass will also be reviewed.

WORKING TOGETHER PATIENT CARE

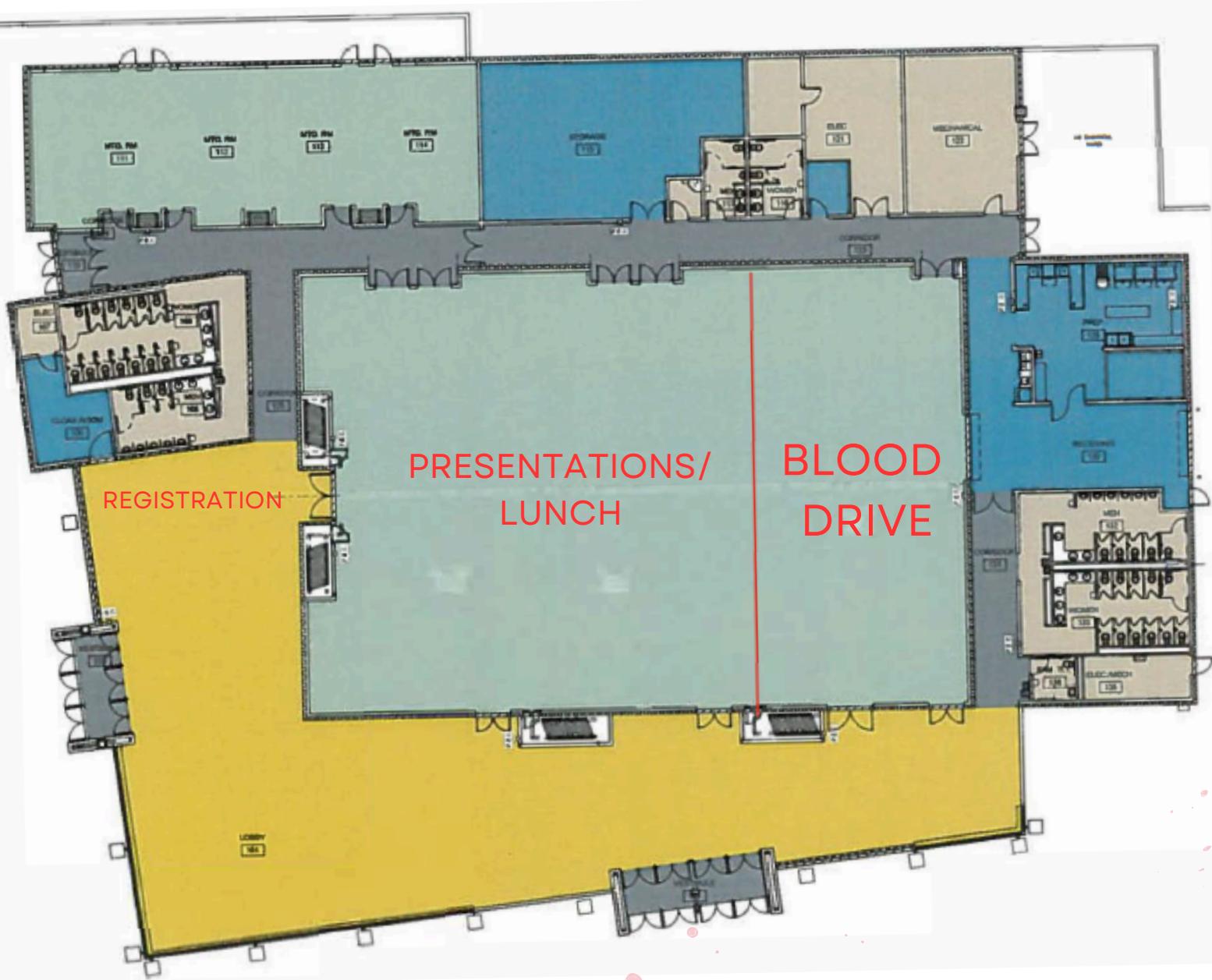
You will learn about bridging the gaps between pre-hospital (EMS) and hospital care, covering enhanced communication, joint training, standardized handoffs, and shared goals to improve patient outcomes, especially for time-sensitive emergencies like heart attacks or strokes.

KIDS ARE F!@#\$\$! SCARY

“Kids are F!@#\$\$! Scary” breaks down the fear and uncertainty of pediatric emergencies by teaching providers how children compensate, how they suddenly decompensate, and why early respiratory recognition is lifesaving. This session gives EMTs and paramedics clear, actionable strategies to identify subtle warning signs, intervene early, and prevent the rapid progression to shock and death.

ELKO CONFERENCE CENTER MAP

ELKO CONFERENCE CENTER - 724 MOREN WAY, ELKO



BLOOD DRIVE INFORMATION

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM



NNEMSC Elko Blood Drive

Friday, March 6th
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Donate inside the Convention Center in
the Banquet Room
724 Moren Way, Elko

Please sign up today. To book your
appointment scan the QR code or call Vitalant
(775) 329-6451



Before you donate: Eat. Hydrate. Bring your photo ID

vitalant

P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N



Beth Malina serves as the National Director of Program Development for Health Science and Health Care Quality at the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. She leads strategic initiatives to improve stroke care nationwide, including oversight of the Mission: Lifeline Stroke Grant program. In this role, Beth collaborates with healthcare providers across EMS, hospitals, and post-acute care facilities to strengthen system integration and optimize patient outcomes.

Beth Malina

Chris McHan

Chris McHan is the EMS Chief for Elko County Ambulance Service. During his 20 year career he has worked in Idaho and Nevada and filled many roles including Paramedic, Compliance Officer, and Deputy Chief prior to his current role as Chief. Chris has a passion for EMS compliance and changing regulation to improve EMS as a profession. When he's not at work he enjoys mountain and road biking, spending time with family and serving others.



P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N



Sam Schwab

Sam Schwab is a Critical Care Flight Paramedic with over 15 years of experience in emergency and transport medicine. He teaches advanced critical care concepts nationwide for flight paramedics and nurses and specializes in airway management, ventilator management, trauma resuscitation, and high-acuity transport medicine. Sam is passionate about building confident, decisive clinicians through realistic, case-based training.

*Don't forget the
blood drive!*

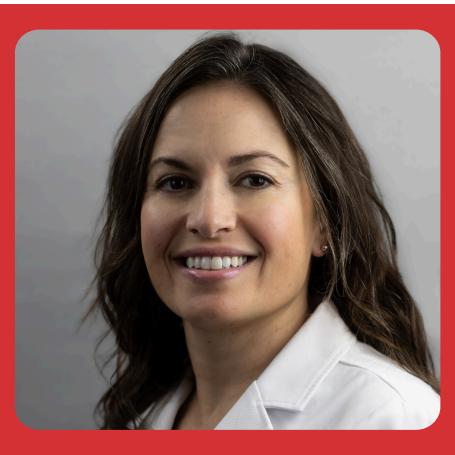
Staci Warnert

Staci Warnert, PhD, RN

Dr. Staci Warnert is the Dean of Health Sciences and Behavioral Health at Great Basin College and oversees all of Great Basin College's Health Science programs, including EMS. Staci has been a nurse for 17 years, with experience in acute care medical surgical and cardiac nursing. She has over 10 years of experience in academia teaching nursing, specializing in curriculum development and implementation. Staci assumed the Dean role at Great Basin in 2024.



P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N



Kersten T. Milligan, M.D.

Dr. Milligan graduated from the University of Nevada School of Medicine in Reno in 2012. She completed her Emergency Medicine Residency at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 2015, at the Level 1 Trauma Center. She spent seven years practicing in Hawaii before returning home to Elko, Nevada, where she now serves as an Emergency Medicine Physician at NNRH. Dr. Milligan is the Medical Director for the City of Elko Fire Department, the Elko County Ambulance Service, and the EMS program at Great Basin College. When she isn't working, Dr. Milligan enjoys seeking sunshine and spending time with her kids.

Dr. Kersten Milligan

Vanessa Holzmann, BSN, CFRN, TCRN, CEN, EMT-P

Vanessa has worked as an ER/Trauma Nurse for the past 14 years and as an EMT/Paramedic for even longer. She is a former Professional National Ski Patroller (current candidate for Tahoe Backcountry Ski Patrol) and has acquired her Advanced Wilderness and Expedition Provider Certification. She currently works for REACH as a Med-Evac Flight Nurse in Reno, NV and regularly teaches Wilderness Medicine Courses for Backcountry Medical Guides. Outside of work she can be found on the trail, running, backpacking, ski/snowboarding, biking, or rock/ice climbing.

Vanessa Holzmann



P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N



Breanna Schumacher is a registered nurse (RN) employed by Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital (NNRH) in Elko, NV, and a doctoral candidate in the Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner program (DNP-FNP) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She began her career at NNRH in 2021 on the medical/surgical unit, before advancing into roles in the intensive care unit (ICU) and the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory (CCL). She is passionate about heart health and advancing preventive healthcare in vulnerable communities. Her career goal is to strengthen patient health literacy, improve population health equity, and promote independent disease management among rural Nevada patient populations.

Breanna Schumacher

Bobbie Sullivan serves as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program Manager for the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) within the state's Emergency Medical Systems Program. In this capacity, she leads the development, coordination, and implementation of statewide EMS policies, programs, and strategic initiatives designed to support and strengthen emergency medical care throughout Nevada. With deep involvement in statewide EMS administration, Bobbie represents Nevada in key national and regional efforts to advance emergency medical services. She has served as Nevada's Commissioner to the EMS Compact, playing an integral role in unifying Nevada's EMS personnel licensure and standards with the Recognition of EMS Personnel Practice Interstate Compact, which facilitates cross-state practice and enhances workforce mobility and public safety.

Bobbie Sullivan



P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N

*A Big Thank You to
Our Presenters!*

Courtney Lawrence, BSN, RN

Courtney is the Community Outreach and Disaster Coordinator at the University of Utah's Burn Center. She also serves as a lead charge nurse in the ICU and helps coordinate the Western Region Burn Disaster Consortium. Before joining the Burn Center, Courtney worked for over 10 years at Primary Children's Hospital, primarily as a registered nurse in the Emergency Department. She is passionate about sharing her expertise and providing burn education to various groups, including EMS teams, healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations. Courtney is also an active member of Utah's state and federal disaster response teams, contributing to both the Utah Health Emergency Response Team (UHERT) and the UT-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT).

Courtney Lawrence



P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N

Paul Ward, MBA, CMTE, FP-C, MTSP-C



Paul Ward

Mr. Ward is a business, clinical, and safety leader with Intermountain Health medical transport based in Salt Lake City Utah. Beginning his career in construction, mine rescue and operations he developed an appreciation for workplace safety. Later becoming a flight paramedic, he recognized the importance of management support for safe operations. Paul is on a mission to help medical transport leaders understand how to lead effectively in safety sensitive environments. Paul has a bachelor's degree in emergency services administration from Eastern Oregon University, a master's in business administration from Western Governor's University, and is currently a PhD student at Walden University studying Industrial and organizational psychology.

• Jamie Carlson, MS, NRP, is the EMS Program Director at Great Basin College. She began her EMS career over 25 years ago as a volunteer responder and advanced through multiple roles as a paramedic, educator, and program leader. Jamie brings extensive experience in emergency medical services, higher education, and program development, supported by a Master of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management and a bachelor's degree in psychology. She is passionate about EMS behavioral health and wellness and teaches NAEMT programs focused on resiliency, trauma-informed care, and provider mental health. When she's not teaching or leading programs, Jamie enjoys spending time with her family, mentoring future EMS professionals, and exploring the outdoors.

Jamie Carlson



P R E S E N T E R I N F O R M A T I O N



Dr. Robert Bryant graduated from The University of Otago School of Medicine, New Zealand in 1998, and completed his Emergency Medicine residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2004. His clinical interests include Emergency Department Critical Care, Airway Management, and Simulation. He is an Associate medical director for Intermountain Flight and Ambulance Services, an Emergency Physician for Utah Emergency Physicians, and a Flight Physician for Optimum Medicine. His extra-curricular interests include cross country skiing, mountain biking, and trail running.

Dr. Robert Bryant

Amanda Brown, MPH, is an Outreach and Technical Assistance Coordinator at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine's Office of Statewide Initiatives. After earning her MPH in 2022 and beginning her career in public health as an intern focused on rural Nevada, she has been dedicated to supporting rural communities ever since. The Office of Statewide Initiatives was awarded the competitive Flex EMS Supplemental Grant to strengthen rural EMS agencies through workforce development, training, and sustainability initiatives. This work focuses on building resilient EMS systems that can meet the unique challenges of rural communities. Strong rural EMS agencies are essential for timely, high-quality emergency care, and targeted support can make a lasting impact on both providers and the communities they serve.

Amanda Brown



SCAN
ME



Please take our quick, four question survey to give us feedback on what we can do better for next year!



SCAN
ME



Take a quick snap of you (and friends if you wish!) at the 2026 RNTS and share to the Event page by scanning this code!

Thank You Supporters

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