

Stuart D. Downs, DNP, RN, CENP, FAAN, FAONL

As the System Chief Nurse Executive of Northeast Georgia Health System in Gainesville, Georgia, Stuart Downs provides strategic direction for nearly 4,500 nurses and oversees the planning, implementation, and evaluation of clinical operations to ensure optimum patient care delivery. He is an inaugural fellow and now director of the Coldiron Senior Nurse Executive Fellowship created by the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where his work in developing a framework for ethical leadership and translation of research findings guided nurse leaders facing unprecedented ethical challenges during the pandemic. The dissemination of his work has reached over 15,000 leaders globally and provided solutions to influence ethical reasoning and cultivate moral strength.

Downs serves as president-elect of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Board of the international DAISY Foundation, as well as adjunct faculty and membership to the Dean's Advisory Board of Vanderbilt University and the Global Advisory Board of the Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy.

Downs holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University, Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. He is board certified in executive nursing practice from the American Organization of Nursing Leadership. He is also a fellow of AONL, the American Academy of Nursing and American College of Healthcare Executives.