

Dr. Rebecca Harris-Smith, Ed.D., MSN, BA, RN, FADLN

Dr. Rebecca Harris-Smith is a compassionate and visionary nursing leader with over 50+ years of impactful experience spanning healthcare, higher education, consulting, and public/private sectors. A resolute educator and mentor, she has a proven record of designing and advancing academic nursing programs while fostering growth and excellence among students, peers, and professional teams.

Rebecca currently serves as the liaison to the American Red Cross and is a member of the National Nurse Network. Each year at the NBNA Institute and Conference, Rebecca serves as a guest presenter for ARC and host the NBNA “We Bleed for You,” Blood Donor Campaign. Dr. Harris-Smith is one of thirty-five nurses internationally that in 2025 was awarded the Florence Nightingale Award for service in public health and nursing education. In 2024, Rebecca became a proud recipient of the “Living Gift Award” from NBNA for community service. Dr. Harris-Smith has held multiple leadership positions within the national and local chapter. In the New Orleans Black Nurses Association (NOBNA), she served as the President, Treasurer, and secretary. On the national level she served on the Nomination committee, and as a Board Member. Rebecca is also a proud Lifetime Member of NBNA.

Her career reflects a deep commitment to service, leadership, and education. As an experienced Dean of Nursing, she is highly skilled in nursing education, program evaluation, case management, and academic advising. She is also known for her ability to build and strengthen relationships between community stakeholders, executives, students, and colleagues.

Dr. Harris-Smith earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University and continues to be recognized as a collaborative leader, articulate communicator, and committed advocate for nursing excellence.