

Condensed Bio



Leah Blackwell, MSN, MBA, RN, NEA-BC currently serves as the **VP & Chief Nursing Officer for Memorial Hermann Hospital – Texas Medical Center**. Leah's greatest passion is being a transformational and servant leader where she can be catalyst for creating a culture where the entire healthcare team can thrive and grow. She prioritizes the needs of her staff and is a champion for support, education, and innovation.

Leah began her career at Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center as a new graduate nurse, specializing in critical care, after obtaining a BSN from Texas A&M University in 2006. She then completed a dual graduate degree, MSN in Administration and MBA, from University of Texas-Tyler in 2018. Through hard work and diligence, Leah advanced in her career from staff nurse to Clinical Manager to Patient Care Director to Chief Nursing Officer. As CNO, she oversees the clinical and operational aspects of 1,246 licensed beds of an acute care hospital, including Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and Memorial Hermann Rockets Orthopedic Hospital. Memorial Hermann Hospital is a three-time designated Magnet designated facility and Leah is honored to lead over 3,900 nurses on the campus.

Leah is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, Sigma Theta Tau International, Women Leaders of Memorial Hermann, and the American Organization of Nurse Leaders where she also serves on Nurse Leaders in Advocacy. She was awarded the Texas Nurses Association's *2022 Outstanding Nurse Award*, for her amazing contributions to the nursing profession. Leah, and her husband, Layne, have three children – Noah, Caleb, and Natalie.