

**Melissa Rouse**, PhD, APRN CNS-BC, NEA-BC is the Executive Director of Nursing Excellence & Research for Northeast Georgia Health System. She has been with the system for 14 months.

In addition, Melissa has experience in nursing academia, teaching at the Doctoral, Masters and Bachelors level. She taught at the University of San Diego, San Diego State University and Penn State University, World Campus. She is currently teaching online in Nursing Doctoral programs for Walden University and the University of North Georgia.

After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from San Diego State University in 1996, Melissa went on to receive a Master of Science Degree in Nursing in 2008 and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Nursing in 2013. Her Masters and Doctorate are both from the University of San Diego.

Melissa is passionate about nursing, mentoring others and providing high quality patient care and outcomes. She is a results oriented, dynamic, effective and highly visible Nurse Leader with a strategic mindset, proven to perform under pressure. Over the last couple of years, she has been immersed in implementing tactics to combat the staffing shortage and to address the workforce challenges of the future. She describes her career as an amazing journey where she has been able to impact the lives of patients and staff through the many education and leadership opportunities she has been blessed to have.