Lolita Melhado, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN is Vice President of Clinical Programs at *OneAccord* Health. She is an advanced practice registered nurse certified in family practice and advanced hospice and palliative nursing. Dr. Melhado has over 30 years of experience in nursing which includes critical care, palliative care, primary care, curriculum development, program development, and education. Dr. Melhado was the national director of palliative care education for a national hospice organization implementing community based palliative care services across the United States. She has implemented and led a hospital based palliative care consultation service in Southwest Florida. Dr. Melhado pioneered an evidence-based solution to aid advanced practice providers in value-based advance care planning and created palliative care courses for the primary care nurse practitioners and nurses. She is a leader, presenter, researcher, and author of topics in palliative care.

Dr. Melhado serves on the Florida Palliative Care Coalition Steering Committee. She serves on the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care DEI data and quality sub-committee. Dr. Melhado served as Co-chair on the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) Taskforce for Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. Dr. Melhado served as faculty on the E-learning curriculum development committee for the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) contributing to the creation of pain, symptom management, and care coordination courses. Dr. Melhado recently retired as assistant professor at Florida Gulf Coast University School of Nursing Graduate Program. She focused on supporting numerous grant endeavors to increase the nursing education workforce to work in underserved communities and increasing diversity at the graduate level resulting in significant funding for the School of Nursing DNP Program.

Dr. Melhado is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA). She has received the HPNA Clinical Excellence Award. Dr. Melhado is a member of the DNPs of Color (DOC) whose mission is to serve DNPs of Color through networking, mentorship and advocacy to increase diversity in doctoral studies, clinical practice and leadership. Dr. Melhado served as Co-Chair of the Programing Committee at DOC to launch the Inaugural Annual Conference.