

Mission:

To ensure Arizona has a sustainable nursing workforce to provide quality care for the health and wellness of our diverse and growing population.

The Teri Wicker Leadership Award

Honoring a Legacy of Integrity, Mentorship, and Service

Presented by the Arizona Foundation for the Future of Nursing (AzFFN) in partnership with the Arizona Nurses Association (AzNA)



About the Scholarship

The Teri Wicker Leadership Scholarship honors Teri Wicker, PhD, RN, NE-BC, a visionary Arizona nurse leader whose career embodied courage, compassion, and commitment to advancing the nursing profession. This annual award recognizes nurses and nursing students who demonstrate leadership excellence and dedication to improving nursing practice, workforce well-being, and healthcare outcomes across Arizona.

Award Details

- Award Amount: up to \$5,000
- Use of Funds: May be applied to tuition, certification, leadership development programs (e.g., AONL Fellowships, certificate programs, or conferences), or other expenses related to professional leadership growth and educational opportunities.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Hold an unencumbered RN license in Arizona (minimum BSN prepared)
- Can be enrolled in an accredited nursing program (MSN, DNP, or PhD) or advanced graduate degree program in another discipline
 - Minimum GPA of 3.0 and good academic standing required
- Demonstrate leadership in nursing — through workplace roles, mentoring, academic leadership, or community involvement
- Show commitment to advancing nursing leadership in Arizona
- Demonstrate a specific plan to utilize the award completely within 12 months after receiving

Preference will be given to:

- Employment in, or plans to work within, an Arizona healthcare organization, nursing school, or rural or community health setting.
- Membership in the Arizona Nurses Association and/or Arizona Organization of Nurse Leaders



Mission:

To ensure Arizona has a sustainable nursing workforce to provide quality care for the health and wellness of our diverse and growing population.

Application Requirements

- ✓ Leadership Essay (Prompt shown below)
- ✓ Resume or CV
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation (i.e. mentor, faculty, supervisor, nurse leader)
- ✓ Proof of RN licensure
- ✓ Proof of educational enrollment (if applicable)

Essay Prompt

We are seeking nurses and nursing students who demonstrate leadership skills, excellence in nursing, dedication to improving nursing practice, and a commitment to advancing workforce well-being and healthcare outcomes across Arizona. Your response should reflect your personal experiences, goals, and vision as a nurse. Be authentic, thoughtful, and concise. Please write an essay (500–750 words) addressing the following:

Nursing Impact: Describe a time when you demonstrated leadership skills or nursing excellence in a clinical or community health setting. How have you worked to improve nursing practice, support workforce well-being, and/or enhance healthcare outcomes in your community or workplace? What challenges did you face, and what impact did your actions have on patients, peers, or the broader healthcare system?

Use of Scholarship Funds: Describe your anticipated funding needs, including a total amount needed. In addition, explain how you plan to use the scholarship funds over the next 12 months to further your education, professional development, or community impact. Be specific about how this support will help you grow as a nurse and your future plans to contribute to advancing healthcare across Arizona.

Key Dates

Applications Open: January 15, 2026

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026

Awardees Announced: Approximately May 11, 2026

Selection Focus

Recipients will exemplify:

- Leadership and innovation in nursing practice
- Dedication to professional growth and mentorship
- Alignment with Teri Wicker’s legacy of ethical, servant-hearted leadership

Awardees will share a brief reflection or outcomes report within one year and may be recognized at AzNA events and in Foundation publications.

Apply and learn more at www.aznurse.org/teriwickeraward

