

# Florida Nurses Association **ICON AWARDS** Recognition Program for Nurses

*Celebrating*  
the outstanding  
contributions of our  
state's nurses



# FLORIDA NURSES ASSOCIATION AWARDS PROGRAM

## Celebrating the Power and Promise of Nursing Excellence

At the Florida Nurses Association, we believe in elevating the voices and achievements of nurses who are transforming health care. Our awards program honors exceptional individuals and teams whose impact is recognized by their peers—those who inspire, innovate, and lead with purpose.

More than a recognition, these awards are a testament to the transformative power of nursing. They reflect our unwavering commitment to a profession grounded in compassion, courage, and progress. Guided by integrity and inclusivity, the FNA Awards Program ensures a fair and thoughtful selection process—one that seeks to spotlight the diverse stories of nurses making meaningful change across every corner of care.

## Honoring Impact at Every Level

At the Florida Nurses Association, we recognize that nurses lead, inspire, and transform health care in countless ways. Our awards program is designed to honor the full breadth of the nursing profession—acknowledging the many roles, specialties, and settings where nurses make a profound impact.

We celebrate excellence across a wide range of nursing positions, including leadership, education, administration, direct care, advocacy, and more. Exceptional FNA members who have demonstrated a lifetime of transformative contributions to the profession may be nominated for induction into the prestigious FNA Hall of Fame.

## How We Judge the Awards

Award recipients are selected through a thoughtful and impartial process led by the Awards Committee, appointed by the FNA Board of Directors. This committee is comprised of a minimum of three volunteer FNA members who generously contribute their time to uphold the integrity of the program. To ensure fairness, no member of the committee may be a nominee or nominator during the current award cycle.

Only the materials submitted in the nomination packet will be considered during judging. It is essential that nominators provide clear, relevant documentation that demonstrates the nominee's contributions and impact, specifically addressing the core criteria for the award. If no nominee meets the established criteria, an award may be withheld for that year—reflecting our commitment to recognizing true excellence in nursing.

## General Procedures

1. Nominees must be nurses who are residing and registered in the State of Florida and are **members** of FNA. Groups, individuals, or organizations other than individual nurses who are nominated for awards must have demonstrated a significant impact on nursing or health care in Florida.
2. An award winner shall not be eligible for the same award in consecutive years.
3. Each nomination packet should consist of a completed nomination form and two letters of recommendation as well as any supporting documentation. The letters of recommendation should be provided by individuals who are in a position to judge the quality of the nominee's contribution, e.g., employer, immediate boss, peer, knowledgeable colleague. One of the letters may be from the nominator. A full curriculum vitae/resume is *NOT* required.
4. Packets may be mailed, faxed, or emailed.  
Mail: Florida Nurses Association, P.O. Box 536985, Orlando, FL 32853-6985  
Fax: 407-887-0692  
Email: [events@floridanurse.org](mailto:events@floridanurse.org). **\*\*EMAIL is preferred\*\***
5. The contribution/events leading to the recommendation must have been performed within the **two years** immediately preceding the nomination.
6. The supporting data provided in the letters of recommendations should include the nominee's accomplishments specific to the core criteria as specified for each award. Documentation of accomplishments above and beyond the core criteria is also welcome.

## Writing a Recommendation for an FNA Peer Recognition Award

**The letter of recommendation or the nomination form is key to creating a winning nomination.** This information is what the committee members will base their scoring on. Some suggestions for a winning recommendation include:

1. Introduce the nominee by name and the name of the award.
2. State how long you have known the candidate and discuss the nature of your relationship.
3. Consider the kinds of personal qualities and skills for which the award is given.
4. Address the core criteria of the award as listed in the FNA Awards Manual.
5. Clearly list your nominee's achievements as related to the core criteria of the award.
6. **Be descriptive and give specific examples** of how the nominee meets the criteria. Avoid vague statements.
7. Include a **strong concluding statement summarizing** the individual's qualification for the award.

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## FNA Continuous Membership Awards

FNA Members receive recognition for continued membership within the association. 25 years of membership are recognized with a Lamplighter Award. 50 years of membership are recognized with a Diamond Award. Lamplighter and Diamond recipients will be honored during the Annual Awards Celebration. If you are eligible to receive your Lamplighter or Diamond award, please email [events@floridanurse.org](mailto:events@floridanurse.org).



## Excellence in Direct Patient Care Icon Award

### Description

Honors a registered nurse, working in a role other than advanced practice, who exemplifies the very best of bedside nursing through clinical excellence, compassionate care, and unwavering commitment to patients and colleagues. This award recognizes those who not only deliver exceptional nursing care, but who rise to meet challenges with courage, professionalism, and heart—serving as a beacon of strength and inspiration in their practice setting.

### Core Criteria

- 1. Exemplary Clinical Practice**  
Demonstrates expert clinical knowledge and skill, applying both scientific and humanistic principles to meet the diverse needs of patients.
- 2. Patient-Centered Care**  
Achieves positive health outcomes by delivering goal-directed, compassionate, and ethical care—often going above and beyond for patients and families.
- 3. Professional Growth and Resilience**  
Embraces professional development, demonstrates adaptability and resilience in the face of adversity, and serves as a role model for ethical practice and calm under pressure.
- 4. Leadership and Advocacy**  
Promotes teamwork, mentors colleagues, advocates for patients and peers, and fosters a collaborative, supportive environment.
- 5. Commitment to Excellence**  
Improves the quality and delivery of care within their setting by sharing innovative ideas, engaging in quality improvement, and inspiring others to raise the standard of care.



## Advanced Practice Nursing Icon Award

### Description

Recognizes an individual Advanced Practice Nurse who exemplifies excellence in performing the advanced practice role.

### Core Criteria

1. Provides care to patients within an expanded scope of practice which may include diagnosing, nursing and health needs, treating disease states, prescribing and delivering preventive, therapeutic, and rehabilitative care.
2. Demonstrates a multidisciplinary approach to promote comprehensive health care for patients along the continuum of care.
3. Exemplifies excellence in delivering care so as to impact the removal of barriers to expanded role utilization.
4. Monitors outcomes of care and actively engages in actions to improve the health of patient and/or community groups.



## Nursing Administration Icon Award

### Description

Honors an outstanding administrative leader in nursing.

### Core Criteria

1. Performs unit level, middle management, or upper level management functions which contribute to the vision and sets standards for quality of nursing care within the organization.
2. Creates a facilitative environment for the delivery of high-quality care and for the professional development of the nursing staff.
3. Advocates for the appropriate utilization of Registered and Advanced Practice Nurses to meet the needs of patients.
4. Provides leadership and direction to assure that patients are provided with safe, effective, and efficient care utilizing the nursing process.



## Undine Sams Award

### Description:

Recognizes an individual staff nurse, **collective bargaining** eligible, who has made significant contributions to enhance the rights and welfare of nurses through labor employee relations and work place advocacy activities.

### Core Criteria:

1. Uphold the right of nurses to exercise collective action.
2. Demonstrates leadership and promotes the value of labor relations programs.
3. Participates in developing plans and negotiating for fair treatment, safe work environments, and reasonable compensation for professional nurses.



### About Undine Sams

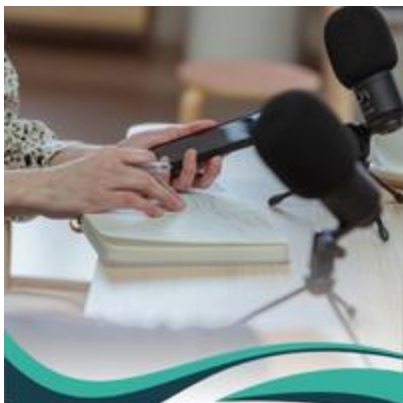
A devoted member of the Florida Nurses Association (FNA), Undine “Sammy” Sams spearheaded groundbreaking changes that advanced the nursing profession throughout her lifetime.

In the 1940s, during the era of segregation, FNA—under Sams’ leadership—became one of the first southern state nurses associations to welcome Black nurses as members. In the early 1950s, she implemented key recommendations from FNA’s Economic Security Program and helped establish the Nurses Charitable Trust of FNA District 5 (Miami-Dade County).

Sams was also instrumental in the success of the American Nurses Association’s “Nursing on the Move” campaign, which raised \$2 million to support ANA’s 1992 relocation from Kansas City, Missouri, to Washington, D.C.—a move that strengthened the association’s presence and influence on national health care policy.

In 1998, marking her 58th year as an FNA member, Sams received a special recognition award from the American Nurses Association for her lifelong contributions. She earned her nursing diploma from Jackson Memorial Hospital, a BSN from Barry University, and an honorary doctorate in public service from Florida International University.

Sams was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International, Beta Tau Chapter (University of Miami), the FNA Hall of Fame, and the ANA Hall of Fame. She was also one of the founders of the Florida Nurses Foundation, where three funds have been established in her honor: a scholarship, a research grant, and a “Nurses in Need” fund.



## Communications Media Award

### Description:

Honors an individual or group in the field of communications for production of written or electronic media which educates the public about nursing and nursing's impact on health care.

### Core Criteria:

1. Through printed or electronic media, presents the image of nursing in a positive professional manner.
2. Increases public awareness of the contributions of the nursing profession to the health and quality of life of populations served.
3. Communicates issues central to nursing and the health care needs of the public.
4. Assures accuracy in reporting through research and validation of information.



## Mary Cash Award

### Description:

Recognizes an individual nurse who has made outstanding contributions to cultural diversity in nursing and health care.

### Core Criteria:

1. Fosters insight, awareness, sensitivity, and knowledge of a culturally competent nursing practice.
2. Advocates for/performs care which encompasses the values and belief systems of patients.
3. Provides leadership within nursing to facilitate acceptance among the various cultures within the profession, focusing on the unity within our diversity.
4. Mentors or provides outreach to persons of diverse backgrounds entering the profession and/or to potential leaders.



## Heather Scaglione Award

### Description:

Recognizes an FNA member's significant and outstanding contribution to support the work of the Florida Nursing Students' Association and nursing students.

### Core Criteria:

1. Demonstrates outstanding efforts to promote professionalism in nursing students.
2. Fosters a collaborative relationship between FNA and FNSA.
3. Promotes the value of membership in professional organizations.



### About Heather Scaglione

Heather Scaglione was a dedicated leader in the Florida Nurses Student Association. She served on the FNSA Board as both a Region Director and as President, as well as a Liaison to the Florida Nurses Association Board. She attended Indian River Community College and the University of Central Florida, and was just weeks away from graduating when she tragically lost her life in a car accident on the way to class.

Deeply moved by Heather's leadership and commitment to the nursing profession, FNA Executive Director Paula Massey proposed the creation of a new FNSA scholarship in her honor. The FNSA Board enthusiastically supported the idea, recognizing the lasting impact Heather made during her time with the organization. FNA later established an award in her honor recognizing outstanding contributions to the Florida Nurses Student Association.



## Special Recognition Award

### Description:

Honors an individual, nurse, organization, or group for actions or programs consistent with the philosophy, goals, and mission of the Florida Nurses Association.

### Core Criteria:

1. Fosters high standards of professionalism for nursing.
2. Stimulates and promotes the professional development of nurses.
3. Makes a specific contribution to the Florida Nurses Association which impacts the practice of nursing throughout the state of Florida.



## Promoting Environment for Excellence in Nursing Practice Icon Award

### Description:

Honors employers, nursing service departments or other entities that create a work environment supportive of professional nursing practice. *This award is intended for organizations, departments, or other groups only. Individuals are not eligible for this award.*

### Core Criteria:

1. Supports innovations in nursing practice.
2. Utilizes management strategies which facilitate the needs of the individual and collective needs of nurses.
3. Fosters quality patient care.
4. Facilitates ongoing professional growth.
5. Promotes a safe and healthy work environment.
6. Communicates a professional image of nurses and nursing.



## Nurse Educator Icon Award

### Description:

Honors an outstanding Nurse Educator.

### Core Criteria:

1. Demonstrates a commitment to education and the educational process.
2. Utilizes creative teaching methods to enhance learning.
3. Creates a stimulating environment in which to mentor students and/or clients throughout the learning process.



## Nursing Research Icon Award

### Description:

Recognizes a nurse who has produced research of scientific merit with relevance to the practice of nursing.

### Core Criteria:

1. Conducts research which impacts nursing practice and/or health care policy.
2. Publishes research findings in professional journals or publications.
3. Promotes utilizing and conducting nursing research among colleagues.



## Barbara Lumpkin Award

### Description:

Recognizes a nurse who has made a significant impact in political and legislative issues affecting nurses, nursing, and quality health care.

### Core Criteria:

1. Promotes nursing and the health care agenda in local, state, and/or national arenas.
2. Fosters FNA's political agenda and promotes FNPAC activities.
3. Demonstrates leadership in identifying political issues relevant to nursing and health care.
4. Mentors nurses to value political activism.



### About Barbara Lumpkin

Barbara Lumpkin served FNA and the nurses of Florida in several capacities, most notably as the FNA Lobbyist for many years. She is widely credited with creating the lobbying program of the Florida Nurses Association through her collaboration with hard-working members of the association. Barbara was instrumental in the formation of the Florida Nurses Political Action Committee, Legislative District Coordinator Program, and Political Action Days (now Advocacy Days). Because of her work, thousands of nurses have "learned the ropes" of grassroots advocacy, networking, working on campaigns, and building relationships with policymakers and regulators in the state.

Barbara worked tirelessly for nursing issues, including over 20 years on advanced practice issues. Several years after her retirement from FNA, the Barbara Lumpkin Prescribing Act was passed in 2016 to honor the legacy of her work on that issue. This is one of many honors she received in her lifetime.



## Community Action Icon Award

### Description:

Recognizes outstanding voluntary contributions by nurses (group or individual) to the health and welfare of a community through an organized and systematic effort.

### Core Criteria:

1. Provides health care, education, or other service to citizens of the community.
2. Develops and implements a program to enhance the quality of life in a community.



## Education and Advocacy Icon Award

### Description:

Recognizes a **nursing education program** that promotes professional activities and educates nursing students about advocacy through inclusion of related content in the curriculum and participation in related activities.

### Core Criteria:

1. Students are encouraged to participate in FNA Sponsored events such as FNA Advocacy Days and Student Day at the FNA Membership Assembly.
2. School has an active chapter of the Florida Nursing Students Association (FNSA) and attends the FNSA State Convention.
3. Students hold positions at the local, state, or national level with FNSA/NSNA.
4. Students serve as Liaisons to FNA Board and Committees.
5. Students write articles for the Student Forum of The Florida Nurse.



## Nursing Innovation and Creativity Icon Award

### Description

These awards will recognize individuals, groups or institutions who have demonstrated innovation and creativity in any area of nursing. Three awards will be presented.

The innovation or creative endeavor may be demonstrated in the areas of:

- Patient Care Delivery
- Hands on Care
- Research
- Education
- Community Service
- Leadership and Management
- Other areas not covered in the above categories



# The Florida Nurses Association Hall of Fame

## Description

To recognize Florida nurses who have made sustained and enduring contributions of enduring value to the nursing profession.

## Core Criteria

1. Member of the Florida Nurses Association.
2. Nominated and endorsed by the board of an FNA district.
3. Make contributions which have a significant impact on the nursing profession through leadership, education, practice, research, or organizational work which have an enduring value beyond the individual's lifetime.
4. May be living or deceased.

## Process

- An application must be completed and endorsed by the board of the nominating district.
- The application will include a portfolio documenting the nominee's achievements. Letters of support may be included.
- The application and the portfolio will be sent to the chair of the FNA Hall of Fame Committee by June 15, of the Membership Assembly year.
- The FNA Hall of Fame committee will consist of a chairperson and four members appointed by the FNA Board.
- When the selection has been made, the district president and the awardee or the awardee's family will be notified and invited to attend the presentation ceremony.
- The induction will occur at the FNA Membership Assembly during the awards ceremony.
- FNA members inducted into the ANA Hall of Fame will automatically be inducted into the FNA Hall of Fame.

## Recognition

- A Hall of Fame plaque will be designed and placed in FNA Headquarters which will list Hall of Fame members and the year of induction.
- The awardee or the awardee's family will be presented with a medallion and a certificate.
- The Hall of Fame, the purpose for nomination, and a biography of inductees will be posted on the FNA website and published in The Florida Nurse.

# FNA Icon Awards Nomination Packet

## Instructions for Submitting a Nomination

1. Follow all guidelines and procedures as outlined in the Awards Manual.
2. Each nomination packet should consist of a completed nomination form and two letters of recommendation using the enclosed template. Additional supporting documentation may be submitted (optional).
3. Letters of recommendation should specifically address the core criteria listed for the award. Please refer to the Awards Manual for tips on writing a letter of recommendation.
4. All nomination packets are due no later than **June 30, 2025**. Preferred method of submission is email to [events@floridanurse.org](mailto:events@floridanurse.org).

## Nomination Form

- Award:**
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Direct Patient Care Icon Award                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Practice Nursing Icon Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Administration Icon Award                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Undine Sams Award                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Media Award   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Cash Award                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Scaglione Award  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Recognition Award            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting Environment for Excellence in Nursing Practice Icon Award    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse Educator Icon Award            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Research Icon Award  | <input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Lumpkin Award                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Action Icon Award  | <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Advocacy Icon Award    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Spaces Award  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Nurses Association Hall of Fame                                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Innovation and Creativity Icon Award - <i>Select category:</i> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Care Delivery System / Methodology                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hands on Care                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education  | <input type="checkbox"/> Research                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                         |

**The Nominee:**

Name		Credentials	
Street		City/State	Zip
Email		Daytime Phone	

**Nominated by:**

Name		Credentials	
Street		City/State	Zip
Email		Daytime Phone	

## Recommendation Form #1

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Writing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your relationship to the nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the space below, please write your letter of recommendation for the nominee. Be sure to describe how the nominee meets the **core criteria** of the award (give specific examples). Please refer to the Awards Manual for suggestions on how to write an effective letter of recommendation.

## Recommendation Form #2

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Writing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your relationship to the nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the space below, please write your letter of recommendation for the nominee. Be sure to describe how the nominee meets the **core criteria** of the award (give specific examples). Please refer to the Awards Manual for suggestions on how to write an effective letter of recommendation.

## Submission Checklist

- Nomination Form
- Recommendation Letter 1
- Recommendation Letter 2
- Supporting Documents (optional)
- Photo of Nominee

## Please submit completed packet to:

**Email:** [events@floridanurse.org](mailto:events@floridanurse.org). **\*\*PREFERRED\*\***

**Mail:** Florida Nurses Association, P.O. Box 536985, Orlando, FL 32853-6985.

**Fax:** 407-887-0692

## Review Timeline

Nomination Deadline is **June 30, 2025**. The Awards Committee will review all nominations and notify the nominators of the status of the nomination no later than the first week of August.

## Awards Ceremony

Award winners will be honored at the **2025 Awards Dinner Celebration** during the Annual FNA Membership Assembly. The reception and dinner will take place on **Thursday, September 25** from 5:30pm - 8:00pm ET at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park. All award winners, nominees, and nominators are encouraged to attend!

### 2025 FNA Awards Reception and Dinner

**Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 5:30pm - 8:00pm ET**

**Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park**

950 Lake Carillon Dr, St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Discounted rooms available until August 26. To reserve a room, [please click this link](#).