



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.  
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For Immediate Release  
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## National Black Nurses Association Announces 2021 Nurses of the Year

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is pleased to announce its 2021 Nurses of the Year. “NBNA is pleased to select 8 nurses and a nursing student to receive its Nurses of the Year Award, stated Dr. Martha A. Dawson, NBNA President. “We are delighted to choose nurses of such high caliber who have exemplified the best in nursing in a variety of categories. They were selected for their outstanding contributions in the areas of leadership, innovation, research, business and science.” “It is incredibly rewarding to recognize and honor one’s colleagues who have made an indelible mark in their communities and the profession of nursing,” said Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, Chair, Scholarship and Awards Committee.

The awards will be given on Saturday, August 7, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., during the Awards and Scholarship Ceremony, which is part of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual NBNA Institute and Conference, August 4-8, 2021 and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. This is a virtual conference.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Celebrating 50 Years of Innovative Community Service, Practice, Education, and Research in Nursing.” NBNA is expecting 500 nurses and student nurses to attend the conference. NBNA is comprised of nurses at all levels, from LPNs to nurses prepared at the doctoral level; bedside clinicians, chief nursing officers, deans of schools of nursing, researchers, academicians, policy advocates and entrepreneurs.

National Black Nurses Association 2021 Nurses of the Year

**Administrative Nurse of the Year**

*“To recognize excellence in clinical practice”*



Courtney (“CJ”) Marbley, BSN  
Chief Nursing Office and Chief Operating Officer  
New Orleans East Hospital – New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA  
New Orleans Black Nurses Association

**Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year**

*“To recognize excellence in the clinical area at the advanced practice level”*



Heather Hardy-Williams, CRNP  
Nurse Practitioner  
Urology Centers of Alabama  
Birmingham, AL  
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

**Nurse of the Year for Community Service**

*“To recognize outstanding and exemplary community service”*



Salamah Locks, MS, APRN-BC, PHN  
Commissioner  
Marin County Commission on Aging  
San Raphael, CA  
Bay Area Black Nurses Association

**Nurse Educator of the Year**

*“To recognize outstanding contribution to professional and /or patient education”*



Tedra S. Smith, DNP, CRNP, CPNP-PC, CNE, CHSE  
Associate Professor  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
School of Nursing  
Birmingham, AL  
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

### **Nurse Entrepreneur of the Year**

*“To recognize a successful business owner”*



Danita L. Smith, BSN, MBA, RN  
Owner  
My Blooming Health  
St. Louis, MO  
Black Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis

### **Nurse Researcher of the Year Award**

*“To recognize a nurse researcher who has completed an outstanding research study and who has excellent potential to develop and implement a program of research that contributes to the well-being and health care of minorities”*



Pamela G. Bowen, PhD, CRNP, FNP-BC, BBA  
Associate Professor  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
School of Nursing  
Birmingham, AL  
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

**Staff Nurse of the Year**

*“To recognize excellence in clinical practice”*



Darnell Dordain Caldwell, BSN, RN  
Hybrid/ASAP  
New Orleans East Hospital  
New Orleans, LA  
New Orleans Black Nurses Association

**Student Nurse of the Year Award**

*“To recognize academic excellence”*



Lonnitria R. Keenan  
Samford University  
Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing  
Birmingham, AL  
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

## **Uniformed Services Nurse of the Year Award**

“To recognize excellence in the Uniformed Services”



Sharita Latrice Bowers, BSN, CCRN  
Critical Care Nurse/Critical Care Air Transport Nurse  
United States Air Force  
Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, MS  
Direct Member

### **About the National Black Nurses Association**

Founded in 1971, the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is a professional organization representing 308,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, and nursing students in 108 chapters and 34 states. The NBNA mission is “to serve as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health.” NBNA chapters offer voluntary hours providing health education and screenings to community residents in collaboration with community-based partners, including faith-based organizations, civic, fraternal, hospitals, and schools of nursing. For more information, visit [nbna.org](http://nbna.org). Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)!

#NBNAResilient, #NBNACelebrates50Years, #NBNAConference21