

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NBNA Announces the 2022 Nurses of the Year Awardees for
50th Annual Institute and Conference to be held on July 26-31, 2022**
#NBNA50thConference

SILVER SPRING, MD, (July 24, 2022) – The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is pleased to announce the 2022 Nurses of the Year Awardees. The reception to honor the awardees will be held during the 50th Annual Institute and Conference NBNA Awards Ceremony in Chicago on Saturday, July 30, 2022, starting at 1:30 P.M. CST.

The theme of this year’s conference is ***“Bridging the Gap of Social Injustice and Health Disparities through Excellence in Nursing, Practice, Education, and Research.”***

Expecting more than 800 nurses and nursing students to attend, more information about the conference and a detailed agenda is located at <https://www.nbna.org/conf>.

“NBNA is pleased to select nine 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. Angelo Moore, Chair, Scholarship and Awards Committee.

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 2022 Nurses of the Year Awardees

Administrative Nurse of the Year

“To recognize excellence in clinical practice”



Sonia Hart, BSN, RN, ACM-RN
Health Failure Program Manager
Novant Health Inc.
Charlotte, NC
Piedmont Black Nurses Association

Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year

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



Selena A. Gilles, DNP, ANP-BC, CNEcl, FNYAM
Associate Dean
New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing
New York, NY
Greater New York City Black Nurses Association

Nurse of the Year for Community Service

“To recognize outstanding and exemplary community service”



Shanina Knighton, PhD, RN, CIC
Instructor, KL2 Scholar
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH
Cleveland Council of Black Nurses Association

Nurse Educator of the Year

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



Pier Angeli Broadnax, PhD, RN
Program Director
University of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC
Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, DC Area

Nurse Entrepreneur of the Year

“To recognize a successful business owner”



Gabrielle P. Abelard, DNP, PMHNP, PMHCNS-BC
Chief Executive Officer
Abelard Psychotherapy Mental Health Clinic
Stoughton, MA
Western Massachusetts Black Nurses Association

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”



Natalie Marie Leblanc, PhD, MPH, BSN, RN
Assistant Professor
University of Rochester School of Nursing
Rochester, NY
Rochester Black Nurses Association

Outstanding Licensed Practical / Vocational Nurse of the Year

“To recognize an LPN / LVN who has demonstrated excellence in clinical practice, leadership, and service.”



Nicole A. Wallace, LPN
Solid Tumor Nurse Liaison
Atrium Health
Charlotte, NC
Piedmont Back Nurses Association

Staff Nurse of the Year

“To recognize excellence in clinical practice”



Taylor D. Washington, MSN, RN
Psychiatric Staff Nurse
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Center for Psychiatric Medicine
Birmingham, AL
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

Student Nurse of the Year Award

To recognize academic excellence”



Elena Q McDaniel
Brookwood Baptist Medical
Birmingham, AL
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

Uniformed Services Nurse of the Year Award

“To recognize excellence in the Uniformed Services”



Lonnitria R. Keenan, BA, BSN, RN
Staff Nurse
Ascension St. Vincent’s Hospital
Birmingham, AL
Senior Airman
U.S. Air Force
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

To read more information about the NBNA Scholarship Program, visit [here](#).

To join the conversation on social media, follow NBNA on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) and use the hashtags #NBNAResilient, #NBNA50thConference

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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. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)! #NBNAResilient, #NBNA50thConference

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