



New Jersey League
for **Nursing**

**★ 2023 NJLN NURSE RECOGNITION
AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ★**



Celebrating Excellence in Nursing

Friday, November 3, 2023
Pines Manor, Edison, New Jersey

Rutgers School of Nursing Students

Dr. Maureen Sullivan Foley Memorial Scholarship Awards



Christian Catiis
DNP Program

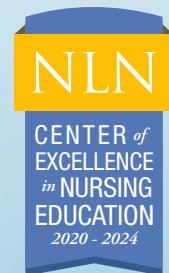


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NJLN Nurse Recognition Award 2023



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Congratulations to Dr. Rachel Derr on her selection for a New Jersey League for Nursing Nurse Recognition Award!



Your colleagues are celebrating 50 years of excellence in nursing at Rutgers–Camden. Thank you for adding to our rich history which includes an Advanced Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Program, the Nurse Educator Apprenticeship Program, and a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service.

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**New Jersey League
for Nursing**

*Welcome to the
2023 Nurse Recognition and
Scholarship Awards Program*

The Joy of the Nursing Journey

- ★ Arrival... Mingle, Dancing, Drinks, Photos, and Be Sure To Purchase Your Raffle Tickets!
- ★ President's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- ★ Dr. Maureen Sullivan Foley Memorial Scholarship Awards Recognition
- ★ Dinner Buffet
- ★ Awards Ceremony
 - Scholarship Awards
 - Nurse Recognition Awards
- ★ Dessert, Cappuccino & Espresso Bar
- ★ DAISY Awards Presentation
- ★ Raffle Drawings and Dancing!

*Thank You for Attending, ★
The New Jersey League for Nursing, Inc.*

A Message from the NJLN President, Mary E. Koch, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR



Welcome to the 2023 NJLN Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Awards Event!

Our NJLN awards program is a tradition that spans decades, and we are so pleased to have you with us this evening as we once again celebrate excellence in nursing.

We chose this year's Nurse Recognition and Scholarship Awards Program theme of "*The Joy of the Nursing Journey*" to highlight and reflect on the different paths we all take through the course of our careers. It is a winding road for so many of us, but one that is so fulfilling. The NJLN has a rich 108-year history and is dedicated to nurse education. We are looking forward to the endless possibilities of the future and what lies ahead for each of us. We thank all of you who have made outstanding contributions clinically, administratively, and academically within the profession of nursing. We have a wonderful celebration planned as we honor all of the nurses and future nurses with us tonight and specifically recognize some very special individuals.

Our awards program has four areas of recognition:

- The Dr. Maureen Sullivan Foley Memorial Scholarship Award, where you will meet the \$100,000 Scholarship Award recipients. The awards are made possible through the Community Health Connections Foundation, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, and the NJLN is proud to have been selected to administer this significant grant award to these deserving students for the fourth consecutive year. This has cumulatively resulted in the NJLN having awarded over \$230,000 by the end of 2023.
- The NJLN Scholarship Awards Program, where 12 recipients will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. They have demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to nursing. We thank each of the scholarship donors; without their support, these awards would not be possible. Many are with us tonight, so we thank you!
- Our Nurse Recognition Award recipients are a diverse group of professionals coming from all areas of health care, academia, practice, and leadership. They reflect the many roles of the New Jersey nurse. These professional nurses demonstrate a commitment to caring, and through their work and leadership, they are meeting the demands of our diverse residents in our state to help build healthy communities.
- We are proud to partner with the DAISY Foundation and will present the DAISY Nurse Leader Award for Nursing Clinical Educators. We will be recognizing three awardees as exceptional nurses in clinical practice or simulation who exhibit, inspire, and nurture compassion and respect amongst peers, mentees, students, and colleagues.

Thank you for allowing me to share a little about this evening with you. We hope you enjoy connecting with your fellow attendees and enjoy this evening of dining, dancing, participating in our raffles, where you may win some great prizes while donating to future scholarship awards, and, of course, the most important reason we are here, which is to place a spotlight on the incredible nurses and future nurses we are recognizing. I must also thank the team that put this wonderful evening together, with special thanks to Susan Chandler, our talented program director, who partners with us on our journey as she lives our mission, vision, and values by supporting and advocating for nursing education across the state, not only through her leadership in delivering on tonight's event but in all we do as an organization. I also thank our Board of Directors, Scholarship Committee, and Nurse Recognition Committee for helping to create such a memorable evening that we hope will remain in the minds and hearts of the award recipients as well as those who came to celebrate their accomplishments.

We thank you all for taking the time to join us to support excellence in nursing and nurse education. We hope you enjoy the evening with your colleagues, family and friends as we celebrate the joy of the nursing journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Koch RN". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Mary E. Koch, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR,
NJLN President



President..... Mary Koch, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CNOR
Administrative Director, Perioperative Education
Nursing Professional Development (NPD) Specialist
RWJBarnabas Health

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Nurse Director
Trinitas Regional Medical Center, RWJBH

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Program Director

New Jersey League for Nursing Recognizes Past Presidents Through the Years

<i>1915</i>	<i>New Jersey State Organization for Public Health Nursing was established.</i>
<i>1915 – 1919</i>	<i>Helen Carol Howes, RN</i>
<i>1920 – 1922</i>	<i>Ida F. Austin, RN</i>
<i>1923 – 1924</i>	<i>Florence Dakin, RN</i>
<i>1925 – 1927</i>	<i>Jessie M. Murdoch, RN</i>
<i>1928 – 1939</i>	<i>(Records could not be found)</i>
<i>1940 – 1941</i>	<i>Nellie Ogilvie, RN</i>
<i>1941 – 1942</i>	<i>Marie A. Wooders, RN, BS</i>
<i>1942 – 1943</i>	<i>Evelyn T. Walker, RN</i>
<i>1943 – 1944</i>	<i>Caroline diDonato, RN</i>
<i>1944 – 1946</i>	<i>Jessie M. Murdoch, RN</i>
<i>1946 – 1947</i>	<i>Bernice E. Anderson, RN</i>
<i>1947 - 1948</i>	<i>Margaret B. Allen, RN</i>
<i>1948 – 1950</i>	<i>Eleanor P. Duffy, RN</i>
<i>1951 – 1952</i>	<i>Laura Robinson, RN</i>
<i>1952</i>	<i>Organization became the New Jersey League for Nursing, Inc. (NJLN)</i>
<i>1952 – 1956</i>	<i>Henrietta G. Korolenko, RN (First President of the NJLN)</i>
<i>1956 - 1960</i>	<i>Margaret Allen, RN</i>
<i>1960 – 1964</i>	<i>Amy Atchley, RN</i>
<i>1964 – 1968</i>	<i>Marion G. Mitchell, RN</i>
<i>1968 – 1970</i>	<i>Martha E. Esposito, RN</i>
<i>1970 - 1972</i>	<i>Grace Marie Howard, RN</i>

New Jersey League for Nursing Parade of Presidents Through the Years

1972 – 1974	<i>Catherine J. Molinair, RN</i>
1974 – 1976	<i>Sarah L. Sherlock, RN</i>
1976 – 1978	<i>Ruth B. Belanus, RN</i>
1978 - 1980	<i>Grace Phelan, RN</i>
1980 – 1982	<i>Doris Geyer, RN, M.Ed</i>
1982 – 1983	<i>J. Patricia Adaszik, RN, MSN</i>
1983 – 1986	<i>Patsy Krzaczek, RN, MA</i>
1986 – 1988	<i>Maureen Sullivan Foley, PhD, RN, CNA</i>
1988 – 1990	<i>Gloria M. Corbo, RN, M.Ed</i>
1990 – 1992	<i>Ruth Walter Laing, RN, MA</i>
1992 – 1994	<i>Barbara Ruane, RN, MSN</i>
1994 – 1996	<i>Louise M. DeBlois, MA, M.Ed</i>
1996 – 1998	<i>John DiBrango, RN, M.Ed</i>
1998 – 2000	<i>Marvin Van Dyk, FACHCA</i>
2000 – 2002	<i>Cheryl Szenasi, RN, MSN</i>
2002 – 2004	<i>Linda Cuoco Lewis, RN, MSA, CNA, BC</i>
2004 – 2006	<i>Elizabeth Stitley, RN, MSN</i>
2006 – 2010	<i>Michelle L. Foley, MA, RN, CNE</i>
2010 – 2012	<i>Eileen P. Williamson, MSN, RN</i>
2012 – 2014	<i>Carol Patterson, MSN, RN, CNE</i>
2014 – 2016	<i>Patricia Castaldi, DNP, RN, ANEF</i>
2016 – 2018	<i>Donna L. Murray, MSN, RN, APN,C, WHNP-BC</i>
2018 – 2020	<i>John Lanier, MS, RN, NE-BC</i>
2020 – 2022	<i>Tracy A. Ortelli, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN</i>



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For information email: shericleaves@gmail.com or kirkhamcarole@gmail.com

About the NJLN...Our Mission

The New Jersey League for Nursing supports and implements the mission of the National League for Nursing to promote excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of our state, nation and the global community.

Our Philosophy

The New Jersey League for Nursing (NJLN) believes in the professional advancement of nursing education and practice through programs and opportunities that address the needs of diverse students, faculty and practicing nurses in a rapidly changing health care environment. We also believe in the importance of promoting collaboration, mentoring, networking to build relationships. We are stronger together and believe that it is important to positively promote nursing through education, producing programs, and publicly recognizing nursing excellence.

A Unique Organization

The NJLN is a diverse and inclusive professional organization with 108 years of experience in New Jersey, who supports registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse educators, nursing students, and welcomes all to join us in our mission to support nursing. The NJLN gives an equal and respected voice to all who are involved in, or are the recipients of healthcare, and publicly acknowledges those individuals and agencies that serve as role models of nursing excellence.

The NJLN advances nursing education through continuing education programs for nursing faculty and practicing nurses and offers scholarships for entry level through advanced nursing degrees. The NJLN promotes the sharing of best practices and experiences as an active member in health care. The NJLN has a place for all of you whether as a member or supporter!

Award winning organization, having been a proud two-time recipient of the National League for Nursing Constituent League Excellence in Innovation Award having received it in 2022 and 2020.

Please consider making a donation. If you would like to show your support for nursing education in New Jersey, we make donating easy. The NJLN appreciates all levels of support.

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Text the word **NJLN** to **243725** OR



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2023 DR. MAUREEN SULLIVAN FOLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*AWARDS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GRANT BY THE
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NJLN President
1986 – 1988



CONGRATULATIONS!



**\$100,000 in scholarships awarded to the following
exceptional recipients in support of their nursing education.**

- ❖ \$20,000 for Doctorate Degree
- ❖ \$10,000 for Master of Science in Nursing
- ❖ \$10,000 for Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Doctorate Degree, \$20,000 Scholarship Recipients



Christian Catiis
BSN, RN, CCRN-CMC-CSC
Doctor of Nursing Practice



Caitlin Marie Kenny
MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Doctor of Philosophy





2023 DR. MAUREEN SULLIVAN FOLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Master of Science in Nursing Degree, \$10,000 Scholarship Recipients



Briana T. Costa
BSN, RN

Master of Science in Nursing



Nnenna C. Nwanonyiri
RN, BSN

Master of Science in Nursing



Nikia M. Sharp
BSN, RN

Master of Science in Nursing



Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree, \$10,000 Scholarship Recipients



Mery Cardoso

Bachelor of Science in Nursing



Sabrina R. Charles

Bachelor of Science in Nursing



Angela N. Stokes

Bachelor of Science in Nursing





HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

Congratulations to the Recipients of the DAISY Nurse Leader Award for Nursing Clinical Educators



Daphne Chung

MSN, RN

Family Nurse Practitioner
Trinitas Regional Medical Center,
RWJBarnabas Health



Aimee Gabuya

DNP, RN, CEN, PMH-BC

Clinical Nurse Educator
Raritan Bay Medical Center,
Hackensack Meridian Health



Mary Jane Genuino

DNP, RN-BC

Assistant Professor
Felician University

Award Purpose: The purpose of this DAISY Award is to recognize exceptional nurses in clinical practice or simulation who exhibit, inspire, and nurture compassion and respect amongst peers, mentees, students, or colleagues. These nurses directly influence learning in clinical practice/simulation and play a crucial role in forming exceptional frontline nurses. In turn, these individuals encourage nurses or nursing students to exhibit acts of compassion and build relationships with patients and families.

Nurses eligible for this award include those who influence and develop nurses or nursing students at the site of direct or simulated patient care. Eligible nurses include formal educators by title/role and informal educators not defined by their job description or title.

History: The DAISY Nurse Leader Award for Nursing Clinical Educators was established in 2021 in collaboration with the Wisconsin League for Nursing (WLN) and The DAISY Foundation.™ In 2022, the New Jersey League for Nursing collaborated with the WLN and expanded the award to New Jersey. We are proud to award this once again in 2023.



HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

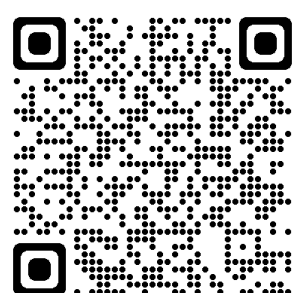


Daphne Chung MSN, RN

Family Nurse Practitioner
Trinitas Regional Medical Center,
RWJBarnabas Health

Nomination submission for honoree Daphne Chung as submitted by Frank Bernard Bobadilla, MSN, RN, NVRN-BC, GR

Daphne Chung is an exceptional nurse practitioner and healthcare professional who consistently fosters a compassionate environment where learners flourish. Her dedication to nurturing the growth of healthcare professionals is evident in her exemplary methods and personal qualities. Daphne's ability to foster a compassionate environment for fellow healthcare professionals is exemplified by her approach to mentorship and collaboration. She not only shares her extensive knowledge and experience but also takes the time to understand the individual needs and challenges of her colleagues. This enables her to create a supportive atmosphere where everyone can excel. Daphne's compassionate approach is evident in her willingness to listen, provide guidance, and offer constructive feedback. One of the most heartwarming examples of her compassion is when she noticed a colleague who was facing personal difficulties. Instead of merely addressing the professional challenges, Daphne took the time to connect with the colleague on a personal level. She offered emotional support and connected them with resources to help them overcome their challenges. This colleague not only improved professionally but also experienced personal growth, thanks to Daphne's compassionate mentorship. Daphne actively encourages her colleagues to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and a commitment to lifelong learning. She achieves this by sharing real-world case studies and challenging her peers to think critically and seek answers beyond their immediate roles. For instance, she introduced a complex patient case from her own clinical experience, prompting colleagues to research and collaborate on finding solutions. This exercise not only deepened their understanding but also ignited their curiosity and passion for ongoing learning. Daphne is dedicated to helping her fellow healthcare professionals develop their professional identities. She accomplishes this by emphasizing the importance of ethical and patient-centered care. In one instance, she organized a panel discussion featuring healthcare professionals from various specialties. This allowed colleagues to explore different career paths and ethical dilemmas they might encounter in their practice. By promoting self-reflection and ethical awareness, Daphne empowers her peers to shape their professional identities. In her role as a Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Daphne continues to be a shining example of an expert resource in healthcare. She provides primary care services to vulnerable patients with mental health challenges, demonstrating her commitment to equitable care. Daphne evaluates and treats her patients using a holistic approach, ensuring their physical and mental well-being. Her work in promoting wellness and illness prevention measures contributes to the overall health of her patients. Furthermore, she collaborates effectively with the interdisciplinary team and manages the EPIC clinic, ensuring safe, timely, and patient-centered care. In conclusion, Daphne Chung's impact on the growth and development of healthcare professionals in practice is undeniable. Her compassionate mentorship, coupled with her ability to foster inquiry, lifelong learning, professional identity development, and her expertise in patient-centered care, sets her apart as an outstanding nurse practitioner and mentor. Daphne's dedication to her colleagues' success goes far beyond her clinical roles, and her influence leaves a lasting positive mark on those she mentors and collaborates with.



The nominations are spotlighted on the DAISY Foundation website.

www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/honorees/daphne-chung



HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES



Aimee Gabuya

DNP, RN, CEN, PMH-BC

Clinical Nurse Educator
Raritan Bay Medical Center
Hackensack Meridian Health

Nomination submission for Aimee Gabuya, DNP, RN, CEN, PMH-BC. Three nominations were received.

1. Submitted by Nina Eckhouse BSN, RN, PMH-BC

I would like to nominate Aimee Gabuya to receive the Daisy Nurse Leader Award for Clinical Nurse Educator. Aimee is the Clinical Nurse Educator for Carrier Behavioral Health at Raritan Bay Medical Center. She has been working with this team for many years, sharing her time between Behavioral Health (BH) and the medical side of the house. We have been so lucky to retain her exclusively to Behavioral Health recently. Prior to her exclusivity to Behavioral Health, as the leader of the department, I always wondered “how does she do it?” She was managing our unique needs as well as her other responsibilities outside of our department. Aimee’s dedication, empathy, compassion, energy, enthusiasm is consistently evident towards patients and staff alike. Right after the first wave of covid, Aimee approached the BH team wanting to do something to support all staff from all departments of the hospital. What was developed was an informal sit down with the support of a psychiatrist and a therapist to give staff the opportunity to just listen or to emote. I had the honor to sit in on a couple of these sessions that she orchestrated and saw the positive impact this intervention had on the staff and for the folks that were offering the support...It was meaningful. Aimee was able to then showcase this intervention into a poster presentation for the American Psychiatric Nurse's Association (APNA) to inspire others for the great work done. Fast forward 3 years later and now Aimee is full time with BH. It has been nothing short of amazing to have her on our team. She has made such an impact with her commitment full-time with us. She has assisted her BH colleagues in creating a culture of de-stigmatization and knowledge with assisting in weekly emails hospital wide to bring awareness about substance use disorders and de-escalation of agitated behaviors. This has been well received by the teams within the hospital that work outside of BH. She has developed our very first Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing academy to support new nurses in their role as a psychiatric nurse, and developed educational content for a new role in BH for Mental Health Technicians all while being a support to the day to day needs of education inside and outside of Behavioral Health. What I most admire about Aimee is her dedication to her specialty and the professional development of others to help them excel and be the best versions of themselves for our patients. Aimee has recognized many team members, nominating them for awards who then in turn received those awards, has great ideas and insight to develop specialized education across different audiences, and she knows how to leverage the right people to get things done or to create impressive outcomes for projects. She does this with such patience, professionalism, and grace. Aimee is a great example of a Daisy Nurse and is an inspiration to many of us.

2. Submitted by Robert Henderson III, BSN, RN, PMH-BC, HN-BC, CARN

Aimee was born to teach. She has a natural ability to see potential in other team members and guide them to their greatest abilities. She awakens our desire to learn and try new things that previously we thought were unreachable. She is proud of her team members and the specialty of psychiatric nursing. She frequently encourages us to become certified in our specialty and advance our degrees. She created a psychiatric nursing specialty training course for all new nurses entering the psychiatric field after identifying the need for more focused training in this complex often overlooked specialty area of nursing. Aimee always volunteers her personal time to help us achieve our goals. Her mentorship is not only open to nurses but all members of the team. Aimee is a team cheerleader. When there is an opportunity for recognition of her team members she takes her time to nominate so that the team member can be formally recognized. Aimee’s smile is contagious. She fills the room with positive energy when she enters. She is a bright light in times of conflict. She is an expert moderator. She remains neutral when there is discord and is able to bring all points of view together for a common solution. She is able to identify areas that need improvement and formulate innovative strategies to promote change that positively affects both patients and staff. She keeps up with current evidenced based research to make sure our patients are receiving the best care and that nurses are safely practicing with the most current researched best practices. She recently created AWS simulations with herself acting out the role as a patient after identifying an area for improvement. She traveled to all units of the hospital. She made it fun and interactive, which helped everyone better understand how to treat this specific population. Aimee has a knack for explaining things in a way all people can understand. If there is something that we do not understand we are not afraid to ask for help. She creates a non-judgmental environment that fosters a safe space for all. She never blames you for mistakes or makes you feel less than her. She will help you break down any problem scenario and guide you through every step of the way at your own pace. She empowers you to use your critical thinking skills for the best solution. The quality that makes a great nurse that is often overlooked in Aimee is her humility. All of her work and personal achievements are for the love of her profession, fellow man, and to better the quality of life of all around her. She never gloats for herself, only the people around her. She has the ability to draw out each individual’s personal greatness. She’s one in a million.



HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

Aimee Gabuya

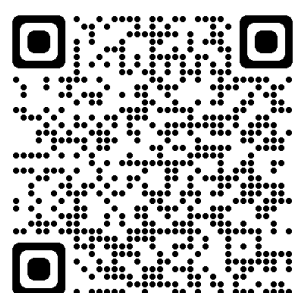
DNP, RN, CEN, PMH-BC

Clinical Nurse Educator
Hackensack Meridian Health,
Raritan Bay Medical Center

Nomination submission for Aimee Gabuya, DNP, RN, CEN, PMH-BC.

3. Submitted by Shawn Reilly MSN, MHRM

Aimee Gabuya is the definition of loyalty to her craft when it comes to working at the Carrier Clinic at Raritan Bay Medical Center. Over the many years that Mrs. Gabuya has worked at Raritan Bay Medical Center, she has helped to create an environment in which everyone feels welcomed and involved. She dedicates her time to helping spread knowledge, not just in her department, but also throughout the entire organization and neighboring communities. Each day she comes to the unit, she takes time out of her busy schedule to check on each of the nurses that are working. She ensures that each person is ok and if there is any kind of assistance that they need. Mrs. Gabuya also makes herself available day/night for several team members to reach out to her if any clinical questions need to be answered. When Mrs. Gabuya is providing education to the team members, she creates a stress-free environment where people feel comfortable and excited to learn. She also keeps her sessions upbeat to keep her learners attention and keeps them wanting to learn more about the subject. This is especially true during her CPI classes incorporating humor but also keeping a level of seriousness to promote patient and team member safety. She has a wonderful skill of focusing on the learning needs and styles of her team and can mold her teaching style to ensure that all of the information is retained by all. Mrs. Gabuya is always willing to participate in whatever is needed to help create a safe working environment for both team members and patients. An example of her dedication is the creation of the Psychiatric Nursing Academy at Raritan Bay Medical Center. This program was created by Mrs. Gabuya to help provide the proper education to nurses who are new to behavioral health nursing. In this class, Mrs. Gabuya will provide education on psychiatric medications, commonly used psychiatric terminologies, de-escalation, and the use of verbal and non-verbal cues. These are just some of the items that Mrs. Gabuya will touch on to ensure that these nurses will feel comfortable treating behavioral patients and ensure the proper care of their patients. Mrs. Gabuya also includes educators and specialists, from different departments, to help reinforce certain skills that might not be used as often as a medical floor. This would include creating mock code situations and involving cath lab leadership to help provide a higher level of confidence for a team that does not have much interaction with these types of situations. Mrs. Gabuya also works in tandem with the substance abuse nurse navigator and the crisis intervention specialist by sending out weekly emails to all departments to help increase their knowledge on substance and crisis issues. Mrs. Gabuya's main goal is to provide evidence-based education so all team members, regardless of their department, are capable of seeing their self-worth and excelling in their careers.



The nominations are spotlighted on the DAISY Foundation website.
www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/honorees/aimee-gabuya



HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES



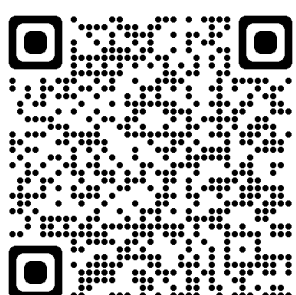
Mary Jane Genuino DNP, RN-BC

Assistant Professor
Felician University

Nomination submission for Mary Jane Genuino, DNP, RN-BC, as submitted by Denise Quinn, DNP, RN-BC, AOCNS, BMTCN

Part I. Dr. Mary Jane Genuino, an assistant professor at Felician University, has made a profound impact on the nursing education community. In a previous daisy nomination submitted by one of her students, it shows the impact she has on their growth as future nurses. It is a testament to her guiding influence as a clinical educator. “Professor Genuino was my Capstone professor at Felician University. I met her in my final semester of nursing school, and I can arguably say that she is one of the best professors I have ever had. She is highly compassionate, a hard worker and an individual who has her students’ best interests at heart. Throughout my clinical rotations she was very understanding and approachable. She created a calm and welcoming environment in which students never felt neglected. Every student in my cohort can attest to the thriving community she has created. She always told her students the path to success is not always easy but true success can be achieved through persistence, hard work, and determination. She also encouraged students to join actively participate in professional nursing organizations and take up leadership roles. I remember getting an email from Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor society and having doubts as to if I should register or not. She encouraged me, explaining the advantages of the program. She also informed me about the New Jersey League for Nursing and the New Jersey State Nurses Association. If anyone deserves this award more than anything it is Professor Genuino. Thank you. - *Irene Joseph Aslem, BSN, RN*

Part II. Dr. Genuino's involvement in ongoing research, such as the Global Survey on Filipino Nurses Overseas, demonstrates her commitment to lifelong learning and inquiry. By serving as a co-investigator in this international study, she encourages her students to think critically about the global challenges and issues affecting the nursing profession. Furthermore, her publications and presentations at nursing conventions and conferences, such as the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey Annual Educational Convention and New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. Annual Convention, showcase her dedication to staying current with the latest healthcare developments. These opportunities allow her students to engage with contemporary healthcare issues and research findings, fostering a spirit of inquiry and a lifelong learning mindset. Dr. Genuino's passion for advancing nursing education and her active involvement in research and professional development initiatives exemplify her commitment to facilitating a spirit of inquiry and lifelong learning among her students. Her approach empowers learners to stay curious, explore new horizons, and remain at the forefront of healthcare knowledge and practice.



The nominations are spotlighted on the DAISY Foundation website.
www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/honorees/mary-jane-genuino



**HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES**

Congratulations to all of the DAISY Nominees

- Irene Bellew, MSN, RN, CNE, OCN, CEN, Hackensack Meridian Health, JFK University Medical Center
- Carol Bendana, MSN, RN, Holy Name Medical Center, Sister Claire Tynan School of Nursing
- Terry Bowers, MSN, APRN, CCNS, CCRN, CNE, Trinitas School of Nursing, RWJBH
- Diana Constantino, MSN, AGPCNP-BC, RN-BC, ACUE, Bergen Community College
- Linda Curley, DNP, FNP, MSN, Rutgers University, School of Nursing
- Michelle Dickerson, PhD, RNC-NIC, C-ELBW, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, NPD-BC, CBC, RWJBH
- Cira Fraser, PhD, RN, Monmouth University
- Beth Gough, MSN, RN, CNE, Monmouth University
- Kara Hennessy, MSN, RNC-OB, Hackensack Meridian Health, University Medical Center
- Edwine Jean-Baptiste, MSN, RN, Jersey City Medical Center
- Rose Knapp, DNP, RN, APN-C, Monmouth University
- Cheryl Leiningen, DNP, RN, Monmouth University
- Jenny Liwag, MSN, RN, Hackensack Meridian Health, Old Bridge Medical Center
- Cristen Mackwell, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN CMSRN, EBP-C, GERO-BC, NPD-BC, Atlantic Health System, Hackettstown Medical Center
- Janet Mahoney, PhD, RN, Monmouth University
- Colleen Manzetti, DNP, RN, CNE, CNLCP, Monmouth University
- Juvy Montecalvo-Acosta, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, CWCN, Hackensack Meridian Health, Riverview Medical Center
- Bennie Luz Reyes, BSN, RN, CCRN, Hackensack Meridian Health, Raritan Bay Medical Center
- Charmaine Robinson, RN, CarePointHealth
- Judith Rodriguez, MSN, RN, CEN, Old Bridge Medical Center
- Moses Sackowitz, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Hackensack Meridian Health, University Hospital
- Patricia Sciscione, PhD, RN, Monmouth University
- Paulette Dawn Slowinski, PhD, MSN, RN, PHCNS-BC, CNEcl, Rutgers School of Nursing, Jefferson Health
- Mary Templeton, DNP, RN, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Maria Tordecilla, BSN, RN, CCRN, Hackensack Meridian Health, Raritan Bay Medical Center

We thank all who took the time to nominate an extraordinary nurse by sharing your nomination submission with us!

★ Congratulations 2023 ★

NJLN Scholarship Award Recipients

Lois Berchie, The College of New Jersey, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
New Jersey League for Nursing Scholarship Award

Melissa Casper, The College of New Jersey, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Gialanella Scholarship Award

Na'Jayah Q. Davis, Saint Elizabeth University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Dr. Barbara Chamberlain Memorial Transition Scholarship Award

Tiffany T. Grant, Trinitas School of Nursing, RWJBH, Diploma in Nursing, with an Associate in Science Degree
Ellen Thomas and William Frank Memorial Scholarship Award

Jazmin Jeffra, RN, Kean University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
East Orange General Hospital Nurses Alumni Association

Baljot "Jodi" Kaur, BSN, RN, CEN, Chamberlain University, Master of Science in Nursing
New Jersey League for Nursing Scholarship Award

Cristen Mackwell DNP, MSN, BSN, RN CMSRN, EBP-C, GERO-BC, NPD-BC, Walden University, Doctor of Philosophy
Helen Marie Dolton Memorial Nursing Education Scholarship

Nancy Menashe, Trinitas School of Nursing, RWJBH, Diploma in Nursing, with an Associate in Science Degree
New Jersey League for Nursing Scholarship Award

Yola A. Mossad, BSN, RN, CCRN, Seton Hall University, Master of Science in Nursing
Jack Robertson Memorial Scholarship Award

Snehal Patel, BSN, RN, Kean University, Master of Science in Nursing
Friends of Nursing Scholarship Award

Myaisha Solis, Trinitas School of Nursing, RWJBH, Diploma in Nursing, with an Associate in Science Degree
Raymond J. Santee Memorial Scholarship Award

Evan William Sun, Holy Name Medical Center, Sister Claire Tynan School of Nursing, Diploma in Nursing, with an Associate of Applied Science Degree
Friends of Nursing Scholarship Award



NJLN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Lois Berchie



**THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the New Jersey League for Nursing's ongoing commitment to promote excellence in nursing education.

GIALANELLA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Melissa Casper



**THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the generosity of David and Kathleen Gialanella to express their commitment and advancement of the nursing profession.

**DR. BARBARA CHAMBERLAIN MEMORIAL
TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

PRESENTED TO

Na'Jayah Q. Davis



**SAINT ELIZABETH UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

The Dr. Barbara Chamberlain Memorial Transition Scholarship Award of \$1,000 is being presented in honor of her unwavering commitment as a champion of nursing education. Dr. Chamberlain was a mentor and role model to so many in nursing and healthcare.

**ELLEN THOMAS AND WILLIAM FRANK
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

PRESENTED TO

Tiffany T. Grant



**TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING, RWJBH
RN DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the Ellen Thomas and William Frank Memorial Scholarship Award, generously donated by the Lanier Family.

**EAST ORANGE GENERAL HOSPITAL
NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

PRESENTED TO

Jazmin Jeffra, RN



**KEAN UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the generous donation made by the East Orange General Hospital Nurses Alumni Association in support of advancing the profession through nursing education.

NJLN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Baljot “Jodi” Kaur BSN, RN, CEN



CHAMBERLAIN UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the New Jersey League for Nursing's ongoing commitment to promote excellence in nursing education.

**HELEN MARIE DOLTON MEMORIAL
NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

**PRESENTED TO
Cristen Mackwell**

DNP, MSN, BSN, RN CMSRN, EBP-C, GERO-BC, NPD-BC



**WALDEN UNIVERSITY
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented in memory of Helen Marie Dolton, RN through the generosity of Donna and Fred Penn, who are committed to supporting nursing education.

NJLN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Nancy Menashe



**TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING, RWJBH
RN DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the New Jersey League for Nursing's ongoing commitment to promote excellence in nursing education.

JACK ROBERTSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Yola A. Mossad
BSN, RN, CCRN



SETON HALL UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Jack Robertson memorial scholarship of \$1,000 is being presented through the generosity of Mr. Robertson's family.

Mr. Robertson was an active member of our Board of Directors, representing Johnson & Johnson Corporation. Jack's vision of nursing excellence recognized that nurses are the lifeblood of the healthcare system.

FRIENDS OF NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Snehal Patel

BSN, RN



KEAN UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the generosity of the Friends of Nursing. Generous donors funded this scholarship award in support of their commitment to nursing education.

**RAYMOND J. SANTEE MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

PRESENTED TO

Myaisha Solis



**TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING, RWJBH
RN DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

This Nursing Scholarship of \$1,000 is being
presented through the
Raymond J. Santee Memorial Scholarship
Award, which has been generously donated by
Dr. Roseminda Santee.

FRIENDS OF NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Evan W. Sun



**HOLY NAME MEDICAL CENTER,
SISTER CLAIRE TYNAN SCHOOL OF NURSING
RN DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE**

This nursing scholarship award of \$1,000 is being presented through the generosity of the Friends of Nursing. Generous donors funded this scholarship award in support of their commitment to nursing education.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

The New Jersey League for Nursing extends our sincere appreciation to the following donors for their generous contribution making our scholarship awards program possible. We thank you.



In memory of Dr. Barbara Chamberlain

Rosanna Deniscia

Barbara Corvino Diaz

East Orange General Hospital Alumni Nurses Association

Carol Fasano

Family of Jack Robertson

Kathleen and David Gialanella

Lanier Family

Richard Hager

Laurie Pappaceno

Donna and Fred Penn

Dr. Roseminda Santee



We also would like to acknowledge and thank all who donate during our events throughout the year in support of our NJLN Scholarship Awards Program.



Congratulations 2023 NJLN

Nurse Recognition Award Recipients



Scott Cooper

MSEd, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN-K, NEA-BC
Holy Name Medical Center



Rachel S. Derr

DNP, MSN, RNC-LRN, CNE
Rutgers University, School of Nursing - Camden



Linda Flynn

PhD, RN, FAAN
Rutgers University, School of Nursing



Mary E. McTigue

DNP, RNC, CENP
Trinitas Regional Medical Center, RWJBarnabas Health



Donna L. Murray

MSN, RN, APN,C, WHNP-BC
Hackensack Meridian Health, JFK Muhlenberg,
Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder, School of Nursing



Denise Menonna Quinn

DNP, RN, NPD-BC, AOCNS, BMTCN
Felician University



Margaret Valenti

MSN, RN, AHN-BC, MEDSURG-BC
Hackensack Meridian Health, Riverview Medical Center



Tracy Vitale

DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, NE-BC
Rutgers University, School of Nursing



Nurse Recognition Award

SCOTT COOPER

MSEd, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN-K, NEA-BC

HOLY NAME MEDICAL CENTER



Mr. Cooper is responsible for all the continuing education and professional development courses provided to those employees hired under nursing in order to maintain all professional practice at the highest level. This includes RNs, NPs, PCTs, new graduates, and those participating in HNMC's Nursing Residency program. He also reviews all policies for the hospital, revising and updating those that are not reflective of current best practices. As a trained ICU specialist, he also provides support to the nursing staff during times of need, like the pandemic.

Mr. Cooper is a talented educator who makes even the most mundane, required nursing updates interesting and engaging. He welcomes all new nursing staff to HNMC and provides most of the orientation courses. He is not a classroom teacher; rather, he is a professional nurse who can not only teach didactic information, but also work shoulder to shoulder with any nurse, from the ICU to the outpatient clinic, from palliative care to same-day surgery. He is well respected due to his breadth of knowledge and as a humble servant leader who gives to others far more than he seeks for himself.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, in February 2020, Mr. Cooper, a father of two young children, traded in his director hat for a bedside nurse cap, joining the rest of the staff in caring for our patients. Holy Name Medical Center was at the epicenter of the pandemic in New Jersey and faced some of the most severe cases, turning all spare space into ICU holding beds. Mr. Cooper worked with other nurse educators to put together resiliency rounds where nurses could come together virtually and get support and strength from each other, including expressing their fears and hopes. He also developed a mechanism for all the staff, and some critically ill patient families, to access no-cost therapy from a trauma specialist. Finally, working side by side with staff nurses, Mr. Cooper demonstrated his commitment to them, the patients, the hospital, and nursing in New Jersey as a front-line, dedicated healthcare worker.

Mr. Cooper was the shining light for all of us during the pandemic. When he makes a promise, he fulfills that promise. He makes certain that those who are working in nursing at Holy Name Medical Center practice to the height of their scope of practice by providing excellent nursing education programs as well as bedside support. His implementation of the resiliency rounds has been adopted by other long-term facilities that work with Holy Name. Ongoing employee assistance programs have been developed and put in place to support nurses and others at HNMC dealing with long COVID and any other emotional or mental health challenges they might face. He is a resource, an educator, a leader, and a good friend to nursing in New Jersey.

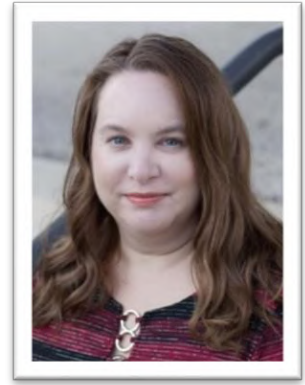
A message from Scott: Thank you to my first nurse mentor, Majella Venturanza, who gave me my first leadership role. Thank you to Lu Kan Gorman, who pushed me to become a leader and reminded me that "I'm supposed to leave her." To those who had the most faith in me: Dr. Heather Veltre, Terri DiElmo, and Maddy Pearson. To the mentors and leaders that continue to impact me, especially J. Cedar Wang, Dr. Michele Acito, and Dr. Brenda Marshall. To my children, who motivate me in everything, this award is for you.

Nurse Recognition Award

RACHEL DERR

DNP, MSN, RNC-LRN, CNE

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY – CAMDEN SCHOOL OF NURSING



Dr. Rachel Derr is the Pre-licensure Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor for Rutgers University - Camden School of Nursing. Dr. Derr is responsible for providing faculty and programmatic leadership, student advisement, curricular oversight and assessment, and programmatic evaluation. In addition, Dr. Derr coordinates and teaches the Fundamentals of Nursing and the Nursing Care of Children courses.

Rachel is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable, accessible, and diverse learning community for nursing students, where her classroom sets the standard. She has earned badges in Inclusive and Equitable Teaching from Rutgers University. In addition, she holds a certification badge in Effective College Instruction from the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE).

Dr. Derr creates an atmosphere of joy that elevates the learning experience of students and inspires her colleagues to be the best educators possible. Her student evaluations are overwhelmingly positive and consistently rank above the School of Nursing mean. Students comment on her responsiveness, availability, and on her creation of a welcoming environment for learning. Dr. Derr regularly mentors new faculty and assists their transition to the School of Nursing. Rachel performs the role of Faculty Facilitator for the ACUE Effective Teaching Practices (ETP) Framework.

Currently, Dr. Derr serves as President (2021-2023), Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Eta Mu Chapter, the National Honor Society of Nursing. Dr. Derr has disseminated her work at international and national conferences. Her work, *Infusing Competencies and AACN Essentials into a Teaching Activity for Nursing Students*, was recognized and received the best poster award at the National Quality, Safety, Education in Nursing (QSEN) conference. Rachel publishes a monthly educational blog to promote innovative teaching ideas for nurse educators. Her strategy, *Using a Clinical Judgment Template to Examine Quality and Safety*, was accepted as a recommended learning strategy as part of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials Implementation Toolkit. This toolkit is used to guide baccalaureate nursing educators across the United States in the move to competency-based education in nursing.

Rachel is also the recipient of the Rutgers University-Camden 2023 Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

A message from Rachel: I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the NJLN for recognizing my contributions to nursing. I share this award with my family, colleagues, mentors, and all those who have supported and inspired me, especially my husband Christopher, Dr. Margaret Avallone, Dr. Donna Nickitas, and Dr. Marie O'Toole. Without their guidance, encouragement, and unwavering belief in the power of nursing, I would not be where I am today.

Nurse Recognition Award

LINDA FLYNN

PhD, RN, FAAN

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF NURSING



Dr. Linda Flynn serves as the Dean of Rutgers University, School of Nursing. As dean, Dr. Flynn heads one of the largest, most highly ranked nursing schools in the U.S. She is a renowned professor, academic leader, and national advocate for the nursing profession.

Dean Flynn has made outstanding and impactful contributions in healthcare, nursing, and nursing education. She has directly influenced change in federal regulations for outpatient dialysis centers, now requiring an RN to be present onsite while patients receive hemodialysis. This is a result of the findings conducted with her research partner, Dr. Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins. Prior to this research, this was not a requirement, and as a direct result, the CMS regulators cited this study as influencing their decision to change the regulation.

Dr. Flynn balances an emphasis on both research and nursing education; she is included on Stanford University's list of the top 2% nurse scientists in the world, as well as being only one of five people in the US to receive the National League for Nursing's, Nurse Educator of the Year Award in 2022. Dr. Flynn was also recently named to Irish America magazine's Healthcare Top 50.

Dr. Flynn consistently strives to elevate the professional nurse, increase evidence-based practice, and work towards new initiatives in nursing education. She has led the expansion and enhancement of high-tech clinical simulation at Rutgers School of Nursing, allowing the University to significantly increase its undergraduate admission cohorts during a time of a severe nursing shortage.

Dr. Flynn's funded program of research on nurse staffing, healthcare culture, and patient outcomes has received international media attention and has influenced organizational, state, and federal policies. In recognition of this work, she is a past recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Merit Award for excellence in research.

She is an inducted Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, an inducted Fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine, and serves as an honorary Senior Fellow at the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania. She is co-author of the textbook, *Nursing Policy Research: Turning Evidence-Based Research into Health Policy*.

A message from Linda: I would like to thank the wonderful faculty at Rutgers, with a special thank you for those who nominated me for this award. I would especially like to thank my family, and in particular my husband Roger, who, for the past 54 years, has always had faith in me.

Nurse Recognition Award

MARY E. McTIGUE
DNP, RNC, CENP

TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,
RWJBarnabas HEALTH



Dr. Mary McTigue is the Vice President, Patient Care Services, and the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Trinitas Regional Medical Center, RWJBarnabas Health. Dr. McTigue is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of all nursing care, and in addition to the usual functions associated with the role of CNO, she also ensures that the hospital's mission is upheld through the demonstration of the core values in all interactions, whether it be with the patients, visitors, community members, or coworkers.

Dr. McTigue lives by the mission of paying it forward to mentor aspiring nurse leaders and, in turn, assist in building a strong and healthy nursing workforce. She is grateful for those who have served as her life and career mentors. With their support and encouragement, she has been blessed with professional and academic opportunities that have served as the foundation for her leadership and mentorship in service to others.

She also embodies Frances Bacon's belief that "knowledge is power", Dr. McTigue is a staunch advocate of academic progression for employees to seek their degree at all levels of education. In collaboration with Saint Elizabeth University, an academic program was established allowing current practicing nurses to attend classes on site with the goal of achieving their baccalaureate of science in nursing degree. Since its inception, the academic progression now includes nurses obtaining advanced degrees as well.

During the pandemic, under Dr. McTigue's leadership, COVID vaccination clinics were established by the hospital to serve the community in Elizabeth. Dr. McTigue was present at each of the clinics, hands-on and administratively facilitating over 38,000 vaccinations. By allowing leaders to organize, bedside clinicians to administer, and other hospital departments to support the vaccination team, it was through her direct leadership that the hospital fulfilled their mission to serve the community during an unprecedented time in healthcare.

Dr. McTigue is what is known as a 'nurse'. Many can be good clinicians, but the goal is to become the optimal nurse, which encompasses being a good clinician and a great humanitarian. She serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, located in Scotch Plains and Elizabeth; Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Partnership for Maternal Child Health of Northern New Jersey; and is an appointed member of the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative. She is an active member of the American Organization of Nurse Leaders, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, and the Organization of Nurse Leaders of New Jersey.

A message from Mary: I would like to give special thanks to my award nominators, namely my Trinitas Nursing Leader and Nursing Clinical Support Teams. They have motivated me to be the leader I am today, and best of all, they keep me grounded in our mission for our colleagues and communities.

Nurse Recognition Award

DONNA L. MURRAY

MSN, RN, APN,C, WHNP-BC

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH,
JFK MUHLENBERG SNYDER SCHOOL OF NURSING



Donna Murray's nursing career spans over 40 years in various nursing roles. She has been steadfast in her commitment to nursing education, where she has spent the past 28 years with HMH JFK Muhlenberg Snyder School of Nursing, her alma mater, and held the roles of Assistant Director of Admission and Recruitment, Lead Faculty, and her current position as Director of Student Engagement, preparing and guiding nursing students to enter the profession. Her dedication and passion for nursing education are demonstrated through her commitment to her students and her keen ability to motivate and lead them to achieve their goal of being nurses.

Mrs. Murray is a practicing Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner, graduating from Rutgers University, and is devoted to compassionate and quality care for each of her patients. Donna's clinical practice in women's health allows her to serve her community as a caring practitioner to elevate health and wellness in this population.

She has been an active member of the New Jersey League for Nursing (NJLN) for 30 years, serving on countless committees and chairing numerous conventions. Donna's leadership abilities are unparalleled. Donna was instrumental in elevating the NJLN to new heights during her presidency. She has the uncanny ability to motivate individuals to get involved. She demonstrated transformational leadership by putting the organization's needs first and working tirelessly to advance the NJLN. As NJLN President from 2016–2018, she was recognized nationally with the Excellence in Leadership Award by the National League for Nursing (NLN). Donna has remained an active member of the NJLN post-presidency and has mentored several new board members.

Donna has been appointed to the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN) board of directors by the New Jersey State Governor, holding this role until 2025.

Donna's role as nurse, educator, leader, advisor, and role model has impacted New Jersey nursing profoundly, and she has touched so many lives throughout her nursing journey.

A message from Donna: I am deeply honored to receive this award. It would not have been possible without the love and support of my husband, Jeff, my son, Chris, and my mom, Patti. I must thank the nursing leaders, colleagues, and close friends who have inspired, mentored, and worked beside me over these many years. I also thank the students that have allowed me to guide them into this wonderful profession and my patients that have given me the privilege of caring for them. I am most thankful to have the opportunity to spend every day of my life being a nurse.

Nurse Recognition Award

DENISE MENONNA QUINN

DNP, RN, NPD-BC, AOCNS, BMTCN

FELICIAN UNIVERSITY



Dr. Quinn serves as a beacon of knowledge for the nursing profession. Her dedication to educating the next generation of nurses is reflected in her role as a faculty member, mentor, and leader. She has shared her insights and experiences in courses ranging from health assessment and fundamentals to nursing research and DNP courses, both in theory and clinical practice. She goes beyond her role as an educator and actively advocates for nurses and nursing students. She has tirelessly worked to improve the safety of chemotherapy administration, and her advocacy for USP 800 compliance has been instrumental in ensuring the well-being of both patients and healthcare professionals.

Dr. Quinn has generously volunteered her time to tutor students preparing for the NCLEX, ensuring that the next generation of nurses entering the profession are well-prepared and confident. She is a respected figure in both the nursing and oncology communities. She has delivered numerous lectures and presentations at the national and community levels, focusing on critical topics such as oncology safety and navigating evidence-based projects and scholarship. Her publications and advocacy efforts have left an indelible mark on the nursing field. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing at Felician University, the Association for Nursing Professional Development, and the Oncology Nursing Society, further reflecting her commitment to excellence in nursing.

Dr. Quinn has an extensive and diverse clinical practice history. She has provided exceptional patient care in oncology settings, including inpatient and outpatient care. Her role as a patient advocate within Hackensack Meridian Health has positively impacted countless individuals and their families.

She is the accomplished author of two highly regarded books, the "DNP Navigation Guide" and an "OCN Review Book." Her publications have become essential resources for nursing students and professionals seeking to advance their knowledge in oncology nursing. She embodies the qualities of a true nursing leader, educator, and advocate. Her dedication to life-long learning and her legacy in the nursing and oncology communities are a testament to her enduring impact and contributions to the nursing profession.

Being a nurse educator has been one of the most rewarding aspects of her professional life. She is extremely grateful to be entrusted and to have the ability to encourage, motivate, and shape an individual's nursing and personal journey.

A message from Denise: I would like to acknowledge my parents for providing me the opportunity to pursue nursing, and my children Evan and Natalie for always supporting my professional goals. Special thanks to Dr. Genuino for the nomination, Dr. Genova, Dr. Marshall, and Dr. Robinson for being my lifelong mentors. Dr. Mihal, Dr. Munno, Dr. Houston, Dr. Luoma, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Pascarelli, and Fran DeLuise for being outstanding leaders, and being a part of my personal and professional career.

Nurse Recognition Award

MARGARET VALENTI

MSN, RN, AHN-BC, MEDSURG-BC

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH,
RIVERVIEW MEDICAL CENTER



Margaret Valenti holds the position of manager for a twenty-three-bed inpatient oncology unit and an eighteen-chair infusion center at Hackensack Meridian Health, Riverview Medical Center. In this capacity, she leads a team of four nurse navigators and Radiation Oncology nurses while acting as a liaison between Memorial Sloan Kettering and Riverview Medical Center. Her primary objective is to ensure smooth operations while delivering an exceptional patient experience and maintaining a work-life balance for her team. Margaret remains steadfast in her commitment to achieving outstanding quality outcomes and upholding the highest standards of care.

Margaret's unwavering dedication earned her the prestigious Transformational Leader Award in 2022. By conducting daily patient rounds, Margaret has provided invaluable support to patients and their loved ones, particularly in end-of-life decision-making. However, Margaret's proudest achievement by far is the End of Life/Hospice Educational Program she initiated two years ago. By empowering over 100 team members to provide compassionate care to those with a poor prognosis, this program has resulted in outstanding patient satisfaction scores and excellent "Great Place to Work" survey results. Margaret's vision is to ensure that each team member is equipped with the skills and knowledge to provide the highest quality of care to patients and their families who are experiencing the end of life. With her leadership, the team has seen a substantial decrease in in-hospital mortality rates and increased patient discharges to home or hospice. Margaret's impact on healthcare is immeasurable, and her accomplishments are a testament to her dedication and commitment to excellence.

One of her innovative initiatives is an RN/Mentor program, which assigns a mentor to each newly licensed nurse or resident, providing emotional and spiritual support through weekly communication. This program has significantly decreased nurse resident turnover during the first year of orientation, making it a valuable asset to the medical center. Margaret's commitment to her team's success is truly remarkable, and she is an inspiration to all who work with her.

Margaret's dedication to nursing philanthropy is exemplary. She created the Nurse Philanthropy Committee at Riverview Medical Center, generating over \$150,000 in grateful patient donations year to date. Margaret's passion for healthcare has been recognized; she was the recipient of the 2023 Institute for Nursing Cares Award for Support, and she was inducted into the HMMH Hall of Fame for outstanding leadership and engagement. Margaret is currently continuing her education and pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Monmouth University.

A message from Margaret: I would like to thank my husband and my family for their support and encouragement. I would like to thank Juvy Montecalvo-Acosta for nominating me for this prestigious award and for my Director, Cristina Palmeri, and my Chief Nursing Officer, Cecelia Cetnar, for always supporting my initiatives.

Nurse Recognition Award

TRACY VITALE

DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, NE-BC

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF NURSING



Dr. Tracy Vitale has been a nurse for over 20 years. She is an Associate Professor, Specialty Director of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Projects and Project Courses at Rutgers University, School of Nursing, and a master educator. Since working at Rutgers University, she has helped streamline and revise the DNP Project process to facilitate more meaningful work by the students.

Tracy's dedication to the DNP project student success was demonstrated by her willingness to teach two of the foundational courses, which are Clinical Scholarship and Clinical Inquiry for Evidence-Based Practice. Expanding her role beyond the project courses demonstrated her commitment to the education provided to students, ensuring seamless knowledge and skill acquisition for students to successfully design, execute, and evaluate their DNP project for a positive outcome. Dr. Vitale's dedication to her students, programs, and their success goes well above and beyond. Her enthusiasm to provide high-quality, evidence-based nursing education and exemplary skills evidenced through DNP projects set her apart from many nurse educators. Dr. Vitale has also chaired more than 40 DNP projects and served as a team member on more than 20 over the past 4 years.

Dr. Vitale also serves as Specialty Director for DNP Projects and DNP Project Courses. She recently led a curriculum revision for the project courses to include changing the 2-course series to a 3-course series specializing in the development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of DNP projects for students across 13 different specialty programs. As Specialty Director, she also oversees between 20 and 30 sections of DNP Project courses a year to ensure students learn what is required to be successful and meet program outcomes.

The impact of Dr. Vitale and her dedication is not only felt within Rutgers School of Nursing but extends to leadership within several professional organizations, such as the New Jersey State Nurse Association, the Organization of Nurse Leaders of New Jersey, and the Advisory Board of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing. In addition to being actively involved in several community organizations, such as Girl Scouts of America, the organization most near and dear to her heart is Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs. Dr. Vitale and her family have two therapy dogs that are regularly scheduled to provide service at local hospitals, libraries, and schools. Dr. Vitale and either Darius or Jefferson not only serve their local community but are often seen on stressful exam days at Rutgers School of Nursing.

She is nationally recognized for her work on the DNP Project and is currently working on the second edition of her book, *DNP Project Workbook: A step-by-step process for success*.

A message from Tracy: Thank you to all of my Rutgers colleagues who have supported my work and helped contribute to my success. I'd also like to thank my family for all of their love and support.



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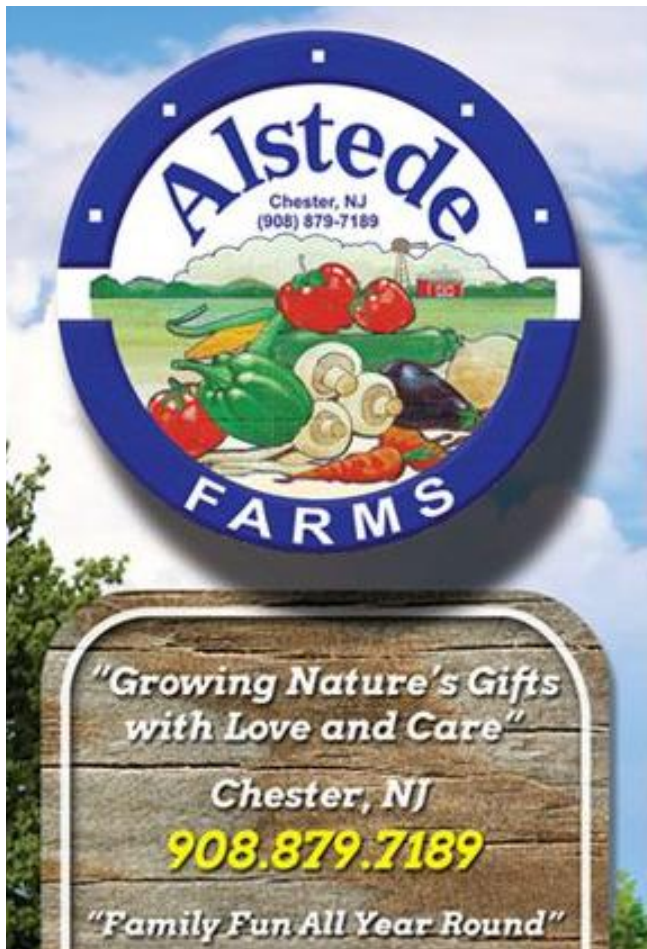
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