

NCONL Exemplary Leader Award

The Exemplary Leader Award recognizes a nurse leader who has contributed to professional nursing practice and the professional growth of colleagues. NCONL and AONL believe every nurse has the potential to be a leader and inspire expert care. This award supports AONL's mission by honoring an individual's influence and impact on nursing practice, leadership and community.

This honor celebrates individuals who demonstrate commitment to professional growth, uphold the mission and vision of the North Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders (NCONL), and embody the American Organization for Nursing Leadership competencies of Leadership, Influence and Impact.

Nominees for this award:

- Demonstrates influential leadership by setting high standards for nursing practice and being recognized as a leader at the local or regional level.
- Provides ongoing guidance, mentorship, and support to colleagues, fostering professional growth and team excellence.
- Drives strategic initiatives and creates a compelling vision for the future of nursing, aligning efforts with organizational goals to improve patient outcomes.
- Champions policies and practices that empower nurses, promote inclusivity, and advance the profession both within and beyond the nursing community.
- Acts as a catalyst for innovation, developing effective approaches to care delivery, mentoring others, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of nursing leadership.

Award/Selection Criteria:

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following utilizing a Likert scale:

Leadership

- Influenced nursing standards and professional practice
- Recognized as a local or regional leader in nursing
- Provides guidance, advice, and support
- Creates a vision for the future of nursing and drives strategic initiatives that align with organizational goals and improve patient outcomes

Influence

- Supports NCONL strategic practice
- Empowers nurses to achieve excellence in practice
- Champions policies that support the nursing profession and enhance the quality of care provided to patients

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- Influences others outside of nursing to advance the goals for nursing practice

Impact

- Develops and executes effective approaches to improving nursing practice
- Serves as a formal and informal mentor to nurses
- Acts as a catalyst for innovative future care delivery models
- Promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion

Nomination Process:

Individuals may be nominated by an NCONL colleague or self-nominated
Supporting documentation includes:

- 1) Resume or CV;
- 2) One letter of recommendation demonstrating nominee's qualification from nurse, mentor, supervisor,
- 3) One letter of support from a senior leader

Eligibility Criteria:

- Maintains an active and unencumbered RN license
- Current NCONL member for at least 2 years
- Current AONL member
- Progressive leadership role for a minimum of 5 years
- Minimum education level of BSN

Source:

American Organization for Nursing Leadership. (2023). *AONL nurse leader core competencies*. American Hospital Association.
<https://www.aonl.org/resources/nurse-leader-competencies>