

American Academy of Nursing Recognizes Four Health Care Advocates as Honorary Fellows Honorific Titles Will be Presented at Health Policy Conference in October

August 18, 2022 (Washington, DC) – The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) will officially name four distinguished experts as Honorary Fellows at the Academy's <u>Health Policy Conference</u>, which is being held in Washington, DC on October 27-29, 2022. Noteworthy within their fields, these outstanding individuals have demonstrated extraordinary and sustained contributions to health care throughout their careers.

"Each of these remarkable individuals has made incredible strides to advance public health and the provision of health care. From policy and practice to storytelling and advocacy, collaboration is key to sustaining innovation and improving quality as well as access to care," said Kenneth R. White, PhD, RN, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN. "It is truly an honor to induct them as Honorary Fellows into the Academy this year."

This distinction is only given to dedicated leaders who have demonstrated a firm commitment to nursing and to transforming health policy. Each individual selected for this recognition is a true champion of science, innovation, and leadership – signature initiatives of the Academy – as well as the organization's vision of *healthy lives for all people*.



Paul Farmer, MD, PhD, (In Memoriam) was the Kolokotrones University Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and Co-founder and Chief Strategist of Partners In Health (PIH). Dr. Farmer pioneered novel, community-based treatment strategies that demonstrated the delivery of high-quality health care in resource-poor settings. A champion for underserved populations and a staunch believer in the extraordinary role that nurses and midwives (the largest clinical group at PIH) play in the strategic delivery of care, Dr. Farmer and the PIH team, responded to the most pressing health crises, serving over 8 million people in 12 countries since the launch of PIH in 1987.

Carolyn Jones BS, DFA (hon), FAEN (hon), President and CEO of Carolyn Jones Productions and Founder and President of the 100 People Foundation, has devoted her career to photojournalistic storytelling, believing that stories can have the power to change the human condition when presented in an authentic way. She has spent the last decade focused on amplifying the voice of nurses on the front lines of our healthcare system through photography and film, starting with her book, *The American*



Nurse. Ms. Jones is an expert in capturing the human spirit, the professionalism of nursing, and bringing it to life. Her dedication to showing diverse perspectives, highlighting solutions, and underscoring the role of the nurse demonstrates her commitment to the profession.

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, a Congressman representing Mississippi for over 28 years, is a tireless advocate for the underserved. A civil rights champion, Representative Thompson's roots in political activism began while he was a student at Tougaloo College. Prior to his election to Congress in 1993, Representative Thompson was an alderman and mayor in his hometown and later served as Hinds County Supervisor. Throughout his tenure, he focused on social and structural determinants of health such as improving roads, water and sewer systems, as well as housing. His record of unwavering support to improve health equity was highlighted when his legislation, the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000, was signed into law and paved the way for the establishment of the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Care Disparities, at the National Institutes of Health.

Bei Wu, PhD, is the Dean's Professor of Global Health and Vice Dean for Research at New York University (NYU) Rory Meyers College of Nursing. As an eminent international leader in aging and health, she has increased the knowledge base of the lived experience of frail older adults and their quality of life. She is widely known as the first social scientist to show the links between poor oral health and cognitive loss among older adults. Her research on the chronicity of illness, social determinants of health, and aging—particularly among older Asian Americans—has informed numerous health care professionals and researchers. Dr. Wu has embraced a cross-disciplinary partnership with nurses to inform our nursing knowledge and grow the profession's ability to have policy impact.

The Academy's <u>Health Policy Conference</u> and Induction Ceremony, during which the 2022 Honorary Fellows will be celebrated, will be held on the evening of October 29, 2022 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC. The Academy is thrilled to host a fully in-person Induction Ceremony after having to pivot to virtual and hybrid options in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. <u>Learn more</u> about the Academy and <u>visit the policy conference website</u> for more details.

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About the American Academy of Nursing

The <u>American Academy of Nursing</u> serves the public by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With more than 2,900 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

Contact: Caroline Kane | 202-777-1173 | ckane@AANnet.org