COVID-19 Courage Award

The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) is honored to announce the COVID-19 Courage Award through the generous support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). This award was developed to honor the incredible contributions nurses have made to save lives, advance health equity, and protect communities during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic through compassion and creativity. This fall, four nurses will be recognized in one of the following categories: policy, leadership, innovation, and science, at the 2020 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference in October. The four nurses selected will each receive $8,000 in funding to contribute to the individual’s professional development so that their leadership is further advanced yielding continued and sustained impact. To emphasize the Academy’s commitment to nursing in every corner of the country and around the world, the selection committee encourages the nomination of nurses at any stage in their career, whether it be direct clinical practice (in any setting), other work environment, or in a formal leadership role. A clear and distinct requirement is that the impact the individual nurse has made or is making is related specifically to the current, global COVID-19 pandemic, which began in the fall of 2019 and is still active in communities around the world.

Criteria:

• The nominee must be a registered nurse (RN) but does not have to reside in the United States.
  o The nominee does NOT have to be a Fellow of the Academy.
  o This award is open to nurses at any stage in their career, from novice to expert, at every level of contribution, regardless of setting or professional work environment.

• The nominee must be sponsored by one (1) Fellow of the Academy in good standing (Article III, Section 5) and one (1) person who has first-hand knowledge of the nominee’s impact during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Academy Fellow will act as the lead sponsor of the nomination package and responsible for submitting the required documents.
  o The second sponsor could be a direct supervisor, professional colleague, team member, or a team member/leader of a community organization or civic group.

• A Fellow may only nominate ONE nurse per category and cannot nominate the same nurse for multiple categories. A single Fellow may nominate four people total, one per category.

• The nominee must consent to be nominated prior to nomination by the Academy Fellow.

• Nominations must be submitted by Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 12:00 PM EST.

• Nominations should address the following:
  o What actions has this nurse taken, or is currently undertaking, related to the COVID-19 pandemic that makes advances in one of the four categories (policy, innovation, leadership, and science)? (The timeframe in consideration is when the COVID-19 pandemic began in the fall of 2019 to now.)
  o How has this nurse’s actions shown courage during the COVID-19 pandemic?
  o What has this nurse done to address the COVID-19 pandemic that displays elements of extraordinary compassion, creativity, or resilience?

• Specific guidelines for the four categories:
  o Policy: advocated or undertaken advocacy work to change policy at the individual’s employer, healthcare organization, at the local, state, national, or international level related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Through their advocacy to change policies, rules, or regulations, the nominee has improved the patient/family experience, increased access to care, implemented efforts to reduce transmission,
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advanced health equity, or improved care in marginalized or underserved communities with critical need (e.g. Black and Brown communities, Indigenous communities, veterans, older adults, socially isolated individuals, those living in long term care facilities, immunocompromised communities, the homeless population, the incarcerated population...).

- **Leadership**: coordinated, organized, provided oversight, inspired the efforts of a team, or supported the needs of the team or is currently leading such efforts, in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Through their efforts, the nominee has demonstrated improvements in the patient/family experience, increased the access to resources for providers (e.g. equipment or workforce), implemented measures to reduce transmission of the virus, advanced health equity, or improved care in marginalized or underserved communities with critical need (e.g. Black and Brown communities, Indigenous communities, veterans, older adults, socially isolated individuals, those living in long term care facilities, immunocompromised communities, the homeless population, the incarcerated population...). Examples of team may include clinical, academic, research, multi-sector partnerships, community, or interdisciplinary.

- **Innovation**: created or designed an innovation (e.g. technology solutions, product development, or curriculum development) that was implemented, or in the process of being implemented, in the care or academic setting, industry, or community related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The innovation, new model, or change to practice improves the patient/family experience, supports providers in the delivery of care to COVID-19 patients, reduces transmission, advances health equity, or improves care in marginalized or underserved communities with critical need (e.g. Black and Brown communities, Indigenous communities, veterans, older adults, socially isolated individuals, those living in long term care facilities, immunocompromised communities, the homeless population, the incarcerated population...).

- **Science**: lead or supported, or is currently an active member of, a research team to investigate an aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic through a variety of research or quality improvement methods. The study is demonstrating improvement or insights into the effect of COVID-19 on a particular community or patient population, the environment on a micro, meso, or macro level, the effects on healthcare providers related to resilience, stress, moral distress, or post-traumatic growth.

**Evaluation:**

Each nominee will be scored from 1-5 on the following factors:

- Demonstrated extraordinary **courage** in their line of work during the current COVID-19 global pandemic.
- Displayed elements of extraordinary **compassion, creativity, or resilience** in their line of work during the current COVID-19 global pandemic.
- The positive impact of their described work demonstrates improvements in the patient/family experience, increased the access to resources for providers (e.g. equipment or workforce), implemented measures to reduce transmission of the virus, advanced health equity, or improved care in marginalized or underserved communities with critical need (e.g. Black and Brown communities, Indigenous communities, veterans, older adults, socially isolated individuals, those living in long term care facilities, immunocompromised communities, the homeless population, the incarcerated population...).
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Nomination & Sponsorship Process:

The nomination package is due on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 12:00 PM EST. Nomination materials should include:

- **TWO** compelling support letters (no more than 800 words for each letter): ONE from an Academy Fellow in good standing (Article III, Section 5) who has witnessed or is in direct knowledge of the nominee’s impact during COVID-19 and ONE from a person who can speak to the impact of the nominee in addressing the criteria for the COVID-19 Courage Award. (The second sponsor could be a direct supervisor, professional colleague, team member, or a team member/leader of a community organization or civic group.) **Additional letters and letters with multiple signers will NOT be accepted.**
- Signed form by the Academy Fellow that certifies the candidate for the award consented to being put forth for nomination (Click here to access the form).
- Up to **three** additional pieces of documentation will be accepted in the nomination packet. Examples of impact include articles in local, national, and international newspapers; television interviews; press releases; etc. Evidence must be submitted in English to be considered (or provide an English translation).
- A brief biographical statement of the nominee (not to exceed 250 words).

Sponsor and Selected Awardee Responsibilities:

- The selected awardees will work with the Academy’s production company to record a short video that will be shown at the Academy’s policy conference highlighting the impact of their work.
- Selected awardees agree to provide an electronic photo to include in the presentation of the award and certifies that their biographical statement is correct.
- Registration fees for the annual policy conference at which the awardee is being recognized will be complimentary for them.
- Awardees will be presented with a recognition award from the Academy and funding for professional development.
- Attendance at the policy conference is not required to be honored as an Awardee.