**Objective:** To publicly recognize the contribution of South Carolina school nurses by honoring one School Nurse Administrator of the Year who has demonstrated excellence in school nursing and leadership in school health.

This Award has been respectfully named in honor of Ruth D. Chewning, RN, SNP, NCSN. Mrs. Chewning, affectionately known as “Dee Dee,” worked for 15 years as a school nurse in Lexington School District One and as a Nurse Practitioner serving children attending Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School for one year. During her tenure as a school nurse, she worked with MaryEllen Hatfield, then State School Nurse Consultant, to develop the first SC School Health Standards and Procedural Manual, plan and implement professional development offerings for school nurses, and provide technical assistance and support to novice as well as seasoned school nurses across the state.

From 1992 through 2005, Dee Dee served as the executive director of Healthy Learners, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity that strives to assure health services for uninsured and underinsured school-aged children by providing access to needed health care. Her passion for Healthy Learners stemmed from experiences as a school nurse. As a school nurse she witnessed the impact that lack of access to health care has on children and their families and experienced the frustration that school nurses feel when they know a child’s needs but have no viable referral options. It was Dee Dee’s goal to make a difference for children and their families.

In addition to her work with schools, Dee Dee served on the Healthy Schools/Healthy SC Network Action Council, the Central Midlands Advisory Council of Safe Kids, the Salkehatchie Healthy Communities Collaborative and the United Way Association South Carolina Board. Currently, in retirement, Dee Dee continues to serve others and give back to her community through volunteer membership with boards and organizations that aid others.

Dee Dee has received numerous awards for her work on behalf of children and her community including the Governor's Order of the Silver Crescent and the Palmetto Gold Award for excellence in nursing. Dee Dee was South Carolina’s first School Nurse (RN) of the Year and South Carolina's first inductee into the South Carolina Association of School Nurses Hall of Fame.

The work of Mrs. Chewning will forever inspire us as we annually recognize other school nurse leaders through this award.

 **Eligibility: Nominee must:**

* Be a registered professional nurse
* Be a current member of SCASN/NASN
* Hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in nursing
* Be currently practicing, with at least 3 years of experience as a school nurse, and in a school health administrative role for a year

**Timeline:**

* Applications must be submitted electronically via email
* Email applications in Word or PDF format to scasnemail@gmail.com, Subject Line: Award Application
* Applications are due by **January 15th** of each year
* Winner of the award will be notified prior to the summer conference date

**Procedure for Submission of an Application:**

**Application to include:**

* Curriculum vitae including personal education, employment history, research and publications, specific to service related to school nursing (3 page limit)
* Narrative written and signed by the nominator describing the nominee’s significant contributions that advance school nursing practice
* Three letters of support or recommendation describing the nominee’s specific qualities for the award from supervisors/colleagues
* Application cannot exceed 10 pages including the nomination form, CV, narrative and letters of support

**Scoring:**

* Clinical Practice 20 points
* Program Management 30 points
* Narrative 15 points
* Advocacy 15 points
* Professionalism 20 points
* Leadership Role
* Professional Membership
* Community Outreach

**Narrative to be completed by nominator:**

Being mindful of the defined criteria, describe how this candidate demonstrates excellence in school nursing using each of the key principles and components (**Standards of Practice, Care Coordination, Leadership, Quality Improvement, Public Health**) of the NASN’s Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice.

Describe how the candidate develops, implements and monitors their school health program to improve student health and academic outcomes.

Describe the candidate’s leadership qualities including any scholarly activities (i.e. research, presentations leadership roles).

Provide details about this candidate’s unique contributions to the profession of school nursing (professionalism, advocacy, mentoring, etc.).

Nominator name: Nominator signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative to be completed by the nominee:**

Using the NASN’s Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice, discuss how you use evidence-based school nursing practice approach to benefit your school community. Describe how you considered the needs of your student population and social determinants of health to guide your school health program and/or practice area.

Nominator name: Nominator signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Checklist:**

□ CV

□ Completed narrative written and signed by nominator

□ Three letters of recommendation/support

□ Application electronically sent by January 15th