



Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Awards

Purpose:

To recognize and showcase innovative educational initiatives launched by AACN member schools. Innovation awards, including a monetary prize of \$1,000, will be given each year at AACN's Fall Semiannual meeting in four institutional categories:

- **Small School**
- **Academic Health Center (AHC)**
- **Private School without an AHC**
- **Public School without an AHC**

Award Criteria:

- 1) Programmatic innovation is a catalyst for change within the curriculum and/or educational mission of the institution.
- 2) Innovation is sustained for at least one year and has achieved desired outcomes.
- 3) Has potential for replication and dissemination.
- 4) Has involved teams of faculty when possible (e.g., across programs, disciplines).
- 5) Consistent with AACN's mission and vision.
- 6) Demonstrates advancement of professional nursing education.

Nomination Process:

1. A call for nominations will be placed in the Spring meeting packet, and announcements will be featured in the February issues of *Syllabus* and *AACN News Watch*. The submission deadline each year is the 3rd Friday of April.
2. Nominations must be made by letter to the chair of the AACN Membership Committee. The nomination letter must include:
 - a. Description of the programmatic innovation, including outcomes achieved. Letter should not exceed 3 pages in length, single spaced, 12 point font with 1 inch margins.
 - b. An explanation of how the award criteria were met.
 - c. Institutional category of the nominee: Small School, Academic Health Center, Public School without an AHC, or Private School without an AHC.
2. A subcommittee of the Membership Committee will review applications and make recommendations to the full committee. The subcommittee reserves the right to decide to not recommend an award in a particular category in any given year. Membership committee members may apply for the award but must abstain from voting in their category area.
3. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board of Directors with final selection residing with the Board at its July meeting.

Award Ceremony and Media Outreach:

1. The dean/director of the program receiving an award will be invited to accept the honor at the Fall Semiannual Meeting.
2. The award is given by the AACN President prior to the Sunday evening reception with the recipient being asked to come to the podium for pictures.
3. The award includes a “symbol” of appreciation and a \$1,000 check for the nursing program, and the winners are announced via AACN publications, including the *Journal of Professional Nursing*, and on the Website.
4. AACN will issue a press release following the meeting announcing the award winners.
5. Abstracts of award winners will be referred to the Program Committee for possible presentation at an AACN conference, as appropriate.

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