



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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Immediate Release

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**National Black Nurses Association Mourns the Passing of Dr. Linda D. Scott,
Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Nursing**

Silver Spring, MD - November 19, 2025 -The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) joins the worldwide nursing community in mourning the passing of **Dr. Linda D. Scott**, Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) and Dean Emerita of the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Nursing.

Dr. Scott was a Lifetime Member of NBNA and a trailblazing leader, educator, and scholar whose career reshaped pathways for nurses, advanced health equity, and opened doors for generations of Black nurses and nurse leaders. As the first Black dean of the UW–Madison School of Nursing and a nationally respected academic leader, she devoted her life to strengthening nursing education, supporting the workforce, and championing diversity within the nursing profession.

A Legacy of Excellence and Advocacy

Dr. Scott's work on nursing fatigue, workforce challenges, and patient safety became foundational research that continues to inform national policy and clinical practice. She was widely recognized for her strong advocacy around diversifying the nursing workforce and ensuring that nursing leadership reflects the communities it serves.

Her recent tenure as President of the American Academy of Nursing was marked by advancing the Academy's Vision of *"Healthy Lives for All People"* and its Mission to *"Improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science"*. This included a major revision of the Academy's expert panels, transforming how the Academy does its work.

NBNA President Sheldon D. Fields, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAANP, FNAP, FADLN, FAAN issued the following statement:

"The National Black Nurses Association is deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Linda D. Scott; a visionary whose leadership elevated the entire profession. Dr. Scott was a mentor to many, a relentless advocate for equity, and a role model for Black nurses across the country. She understood that representation in nursing is not just symbolic, it saves lives and transforms communities".



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Her voice, scholarship, and courage have left an indelible mark on our profession. NBNA honors her legacy, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, as well as the countless nurses at all levels that she inspired. Earlier this year, I had the honor of presenting Dr. Scott with the **NBNA Lifetime Achievement Award**, recognizing her extraordinary and enduring contributions to nursing leadership, scholarship, research, and equity.”



- Dr. Sheldon D. Fields presenting Dr. Linda D. Scott with the NBNA Lifetime Achievement Award assisted by Dr. Shirley Evers-Manly.
- August 9, 2025 – Hilton Anatole Hotel - Dallas, Texas

Honoring Dr. Scott's Memory

NBNA encourages its members, partners, and the broader nursing community to reflect on Dr. Scott's profound impact and influence on our profession and to continue her work in advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in nursing. She was an advocate for advancing JEDI in nursing and, in 2024, was recognized and inducted as a Nursing Luminary in the inaugural cohort of the Fellows of the Academy of Diversity Leaders in Nursing (FADLN). Memorial and tribute information will be shared as it becomes available.

About the National Black Nurses Association

Founded in 1971, the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) represents approximately 308,000 Black registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, and nursing students in 115 chapters across the United States, the Eastern Caribbean, and Africa. NBNA's mission is to serve as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations, promoting equity in healthcare and advancing the professional and educational development of nurses worldwide.

For more information, visit www.nbna.org