



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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Phone: (301) 589-3200 • Fax: (301) 589-3223

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2026 NBNA Presidential Award Recipients Announced

Silver Spring, MD – Today we are pleased to announce the 2026 NBNA Presidential Award recipients. This year we will recognize three nursing colleagues with the NBNA Lifetime Achievement Award, which is our highest honor. We will also recognize five colleagues with the NBNA Trailblazer Award along with recipients of the NBNA Founders Spirit Award.

“This is a proud NBNA tradition of recognizing our nursing colleagues and supporters of NBNA that I am delighted to continue,” stated Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, AACRN, FNAP, FAANP, FADLN, FAAN, the 14th President & CEO of NBNA.

NBNA Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Presented to an individual whose summative lifetime work places them in a position of high achievement in service to NBNA directly and/or the NBNA mission and vision.

- Dr. Vernell P. DeWitty, PhD, MBA, RN, FADLN, FAAN
- Dr. Teri A. Murray, PhD, PHNA-BC, RN, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN
- Dr. Paulina Van, PhD, RN, FADLN, FAAN

NBNA Trailblazer Award Recipients

Presented to an individual whose character places them in a position of leadership. It is designed for an individual who has taken risks. This award is presented to an individual who leads their community, state, and the nation in nursing, business, philanthropy, communications, government, education, or the arts.

- Dr. Angela Frederick Amar, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN
- Dr. Felesia Bowen. PhD, DNP, RN, PPCNP-BC, FADLN, FAAN
- Dr. Stephan Davis, DNP, MHSA, FACHE, ANEF, FADLN, FAONL, FNYAM, FAAN
- Dr. Selena Ann Gilles, DNP, ANP-BC, CNEcl, ANEF, FNYAM, FADLN, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN
- Dr. Michael A. Simmons DHA, MSN, RN, PCCN, NEA-BC, FACHE

NBNA Founders Spirit Award

Presented to an individual, a group, a chapter, or an association/organization that has a documented history of extraordinary sustained dedicated support and service to the mission and vision of NBNA. These awards are announced live in person during the annual presidential gala, and the recipients are not notified ahead of time. **Hence, those listed below are the four 2025 recipients; congratulations.**



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1. Sasha DuBois, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
2. Dr. J'Adore Larosa-Mattis, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, FNYAM
3. Pfizer, Inc
4. Dr. Audrey P. Miller, PhD, MSN Ed, APRN, PPCNP-BC, CPN, CNE, LNC, FADLN

SPECIAL NOTE: The recipients of the NBNA Founders Awards will be announced live during the Presidential Gala in Saint Louis, MO on Saturday, August 1, 2026.

All of the NBNA Presidential awards will be presented during the Presidential Gala on Saturday, August 1, 2026, during the 54th Annual Institute and Conference of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc which is set to unfold in the vibrant city of Saint Louis, MO, from July 28 – August 2, 2026.

About NBNA

Founded in 1971, the mission of NBNA is “to serve as the voice for black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health.” NBNA represents over 350,000 black registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean, and Africa, through 111 chartered chapters, in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more at NBNA.org.