

ATLANTIC



2024 Recognition Awards

The Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL) is at the forefront of nurse leadership in California, shaping the future of healthcare. Comprising diverse and highly-educated members, ACNL promotes active participation to drive healthcare innovation. These passionate professionals are dedicated to nursing excellence and improving the health of our communities.

Each year, ACNL recognizes the outstanding contributions of nurse leaders in various areas. This year's award winners are remarkable leaders who are serving our profession with distinction. ACNL recognizes them as a subset of California's exceptional nurse leaders, applauding their efforts to enhance healthcare statewide. Through sharing these achievements, ACNL aims to inspire further creativity, innovation, and excellence in all healthcare settings.

2024 Scholarship Program

In pursuit of our mission to cultivate nurse leaders and encourage lifelong learning, ACNL sponsors several scholarships. These include academic scholarships for nurse leaders engaged in research or pursuing graduate degrees; leadership scholarships for concentrated healthcare studies; research scholarships for nursing practice advancements; and the Nurses Float Scholarship for outstanding RNs pursuing nursing degrees.

This year's scholarship program is offered through generous contributions from Bare Root, Inc. and ACNL's members through the Circles of Giving program.

If you would like to learn more about becoming an ACNL scholarship sponsor, contact us at info@acnl.org or by phone at 916-779-6949.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



United States
Passport

Awarded to a nurse leader who has made significant lifetime contribution to the nursing profession.

WARNING: ALTERATION OR ADDITION OF ENTRIES IS PROHIBITED.
ANY UNOFFICIAL CHANGE WILL RENDER PASSPORT INVALID

passport



Patricia
McFarland

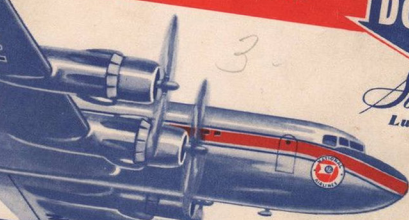
MS
RN
FAAN

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AIRLINES



BOARDING PASS

Patricia "Pat" McFarland is a living legend whose nearly 25-year tenure as CEO of ACNL transformed nursing leadership and healthcare quality in California and beyond. As Executive Director and later CEO, she built a strong infrastructure, forging alliances with academia, policymakers, and healthcare organizations, and spearheading initiatives like CalNOC, Circles of Giving, and the Foundation for Leadership Excellence. A champion of collaboration and mentorship, Pat guided ACNL presidents, mentored countless nurse leaders, and co-developed California's nurse leadership program to strengthen emerging leaders' skills in finance, quality, and organizational success. Her partnerships with organizations like the California Hospital Association amplified nursing's influence on healthcare policy and practice. Pat's tireless dedication and profound impact on healthcare have earned her the Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing her exemplary leadership and service.

SWEDEN

As President and CEO of HealthImpact, California's Nursing Workforce and Policy Center, Garrett's work advances health and wellness across California and beyond. His 28 years of experience as a registered nurse and licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse shine through his innovative, resourceful leadership. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Garrett's campaigns brought critical education and resources to underserved communities, a testament to his commitment to service and equity. Under his leadership, HealthImpact has secured significant grants and launched initiatives to elevate nursing education, expand roles, and drive impactful policy. Garrett's unwavering dedication to nursing excellence and lifelong learning exemplifies his service to the nursing community, making him a true alchemist leader whose work supports, uplifts, and inspires.



Garrett Chan

**EXCELLENCE
IN LEADERSHIP**

Awarded to a nurse leader who has made a significant contribution to nursing leadership!

**AWARDED TO A NURSE LEADER IN
A FORMAL LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR
LESS THAN TWO YEARS WHO HAS
MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION
TO NURSING LEADERSHIP!**



evidence-based ICU retention program, presented in South Korea and the U.S. A passionate advocate for nursing advancement, Dahlia has recruited over 100 nurse leaders to the Sigma Theta Tau GTAL chapter, expanding its reach to UCLA Health, and her commitment to healthcare policy is reflected in her leadership roles and development of a widely-used legislative process guide for nurses.



OUTSTANDING EMERGING NURSE LEADER!



Dahlia Maldonado!
BSN, RN-BC

In less than two years as UCLA Santa Monica's Magnet® Coordinator, Dahlia has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, exceeding Magnet® standards in all perioperative areas through her data-driven approach to ambulatory performance. She restructured Professional Governance at UCLA Health, improving operational efficiency and communication, and gained international recognition for her



The following Excellence Awards are presented to recognize, document and communicate outstanding accomplishments in specific areas of nursing!

Around the World

Excellence In Nursing Research!



Bernice Coleman

PHD, ACNP-BC, FAHA, FAAN, FADLN

Bernice's 40-year career exemplifies excellence in nursing research and patient care, marked by groundbreaking studies in transplant genomics, health disparities, and community health education. As Director of Nursing Research at Cedars-Sinai, she has bridged laboratory research with clinical practice, publishing over 50 studies and presenting globally, including at the United Nations. A Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and Luminary Fellow of the Academy of Diversity Leaders in Nursing, Bernice has shaped U.S. organ donation policies through appointments to the DHHS and NASEM committees, while mentoring future nurse researchers and transforming healthcare delivery through her leadership.

This space for writing

Misty has demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing inclusive healthcare through the Sexual Orientation & Gender Identification (SOGI) initiative, transforming how nurses collect and document SOGI information during admissions to ensure equitable, affirming care. Collaborating with clinical nurses, she developed comprehensive educational content, including innovative video modules, achieving over 90% training completion rates. Feedback from over 800 nurses highlighted high confidence in implementing these practices, reflecting Misty's success in fostering shared decision-making and significantly enhancing the nursing practice environment while setting a new standard for inclusive care.

NC36578-0116



MISTY CAHOON

EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE!

MSN, RN, NPD-BC



MURCIA

ALICANTE

MALTA



KRYSTAL POMBO

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN PROFESSIONAL NURSING!

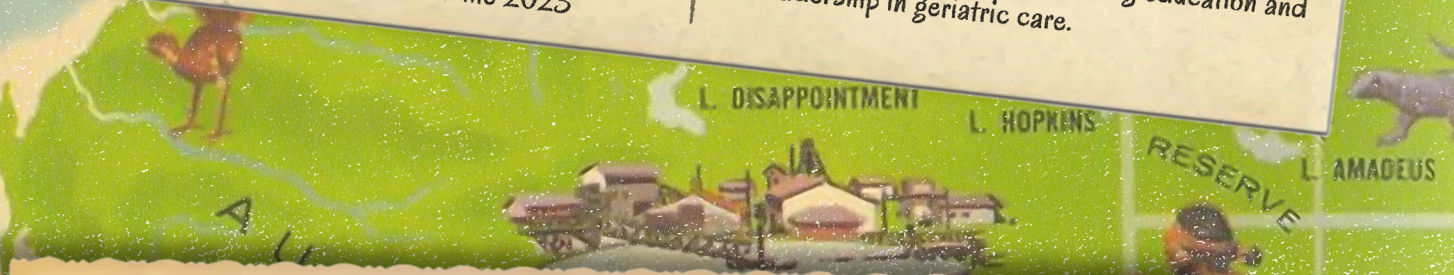
MSN, RN, CNS, AGCNS-BC

Krystal has revolutionized geriatric care education at Kaiser Permanente-Fresno through innovative professional development, including a delirium-themed escape room for the 2023



Geriatric Symposium. Using gamification and sensory simulations, this interactive training fosters empathy and enhances understanding among interprofessional teams, improving care for older adults. Her contributions have been showcased at national conferences, earning KP Fresno recognition as a Level II Age-Friendly Health System by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and the NICHE Trailblazer Award. Krystal's visionary approach exemplifies excellence in nursing education and leadership in geriatric care.

OCEAN
DIANE



With over 40 years in nursing education, Diane has transformed institutions and empowered future nurse leaders. She has developed RN-to-BSN and DNP programs at La Salle University, improved NCLEX passing rates and retention at National University, and established advanced nursing programs. Her global impact includes consulting in Europe to help universities gain international recognition. As an administrator at Brookline College and Charles R. Drew University, she achieved significant gains in NCLEX rates, accreditation, and enrollment. Most recently, as founding dean of Westcliff University's College of Nursing, Diane prioritized student-centered approaches, leaving a legacy of advocacy, innovation, and leadership in nursing education.

PHD, MSN, RN, ANEF, FAAN



EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION!

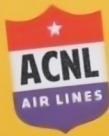
Diane Breckenridge

Dale Beatty

DNP. RN. NEA-BC. CARITAS COACH®.
FAONL. FADLN. FAAN



7 Wonderful, Low Cost
INCLUSIVE
HAWAIIAN VACATIONS



Awarded to an individual demonstrating significant dedication to the fight for equality in healthcare.

- ★ Diversity
- ★ Equity
- ★ Inclusion
- ★ Accesibility
- ★ Antiracism!



INTER-ISLAND TRAVEL SERVICE
2217 Kalakaua Ave. Honolulu, T. H.
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As Chief Nurse Executive and Senior VP of Patient Care Services at Stanford Health Care, Dale demonstrates unwavering dedication to promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Antiracism (DEIAA) within nursing. His initiatives include pioneering the LatinX Employee Resource Group at Stanford and co-chairing the Health Equity Governance and DEI Organizational Alignment Committees, ensuring inclusive representation at every level.

Dale actively supports minority organizations, founding Stanford's Black Nurses Association Chapter and sponsoring the Philippine Nurses Association subchapter. His commitment to accessibility and antiracism is reflected in his role in Stanford's Human-Centered Design Program and as co-chair of the COVID-19 vaccination program, championing health equity. His extensive contributions to local and global healthcare, including with the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing, solidify his role as a visionary leader in DEIAA.

The Caribbean

Australia

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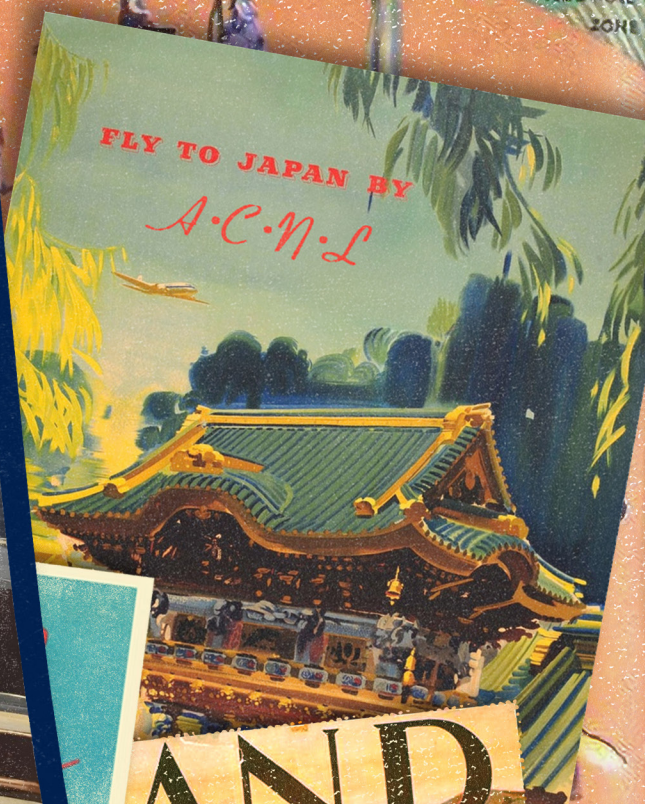
Sharon Waechter and **Leah Korkis**
 BSN, RN, CCRN MSN, RN, AGCNS, NPD BC

Awarded to a pair of individuals who exemplify the mentor/mentee bond!



Leah Korkis and Sharon Waechter have a unique and impactful relationship that redefines mentorship. Leah, a millennial leader at USC Verdugo Hills, has been mentoring Sharon, an experienced clinician and new Education Director at Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), highlighting that mentorship transcends age and experience.

This collaboration has led to several achievements. Inspired by Leah, Sharon presented to nursing leadership on integrating nursing theory and evidence-based practice, realizing its essential role in defining nursing's unique contribution. Leah also guided Sharon in developing VCMC's professional practice model, applying the framework Leah helped create at USC Verdugo Hills.



AND

Additionally, Leah supported Sharon's journey toward PTAP accreditation and her pursuit of a Nursing Professional Development certification, both inspired by Leah's example. This partnership showcases how mentorship, when reciprocal and cross-generational, can drive significant growth and achievement.

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EXCELLENCE AS A GROUP!

AWARDED TO A GROUP THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK, AND A COMMITMENT TO ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT!



The LA General Medical Center Nursing Education Department for Professional Development has transformed nurse onboarding with its innovative Nurse Residency Program. Launched in 2021 under the vision of Chief Nursing Officer Nancy Blake, this six-month, home-grown program supports new graduate RNs with less than 12 months of acute care experience, equipping them with the skills and confidence to provide safe, effective patient care.

The NRP, operated by Grace Chacon and a dedicated team of clinical nurse educators, instructors, preceptors, and mentors, combines in-person training, preceptorship, and mentorship with evidence-based performance improvement projects. Tailored learning based on resident feedback addressed critical areas like tracheostomy care and emergency response, improving confidence from 33% to 81%.

Aligned with LA General's vision, the program has educated 413 nurses, reduced turnover from 22.5% to 8%, and achieved retention rates as high as 100% in recent cohorts. This initiative exemplifies excellence in professional development.



The LA General Medical Center Nursing Education Department for Professional Development



Luxury! Beauty! Adventure!

AD PRO

GULF OF ADEN



Chapter Excellence!



ACNL SACRAMENTO/SIERRA CHAPTER



The Sacramento/Sierra ACNL Chapter has excelled in advancing nursing leadership, inclusivity, and membership growth. Guided by a member needs assessment, the chapter organized interactive events featuring prominent speakers, offering CEUs and focusing on key leadership topics. Participants reported gaining valuable insights to apply in their practice.

Collaborations with organizations like UC Davis Health, Kaiser Permanente, and various nursing associations enriched programming, broadening perspectives on DEI, informatics, and social justice. These partnerships generated \$37,465 in revenue, supporting further initiatives.

In the past year, the chapter hosted events with over 700 attendees, held awards recognizing nurse leaders, and established a presence on social media. Membership grew by 18%, with over 80% retention, supported by creative marketing, diverse event locations, and a newly expanded board. At the 2024 ACNL Annual Program, the chapter shared best practices on leadership development, cementing its role in fostering a dynamic nursing community.

Central
America

FRIEND OF NURSING!

Awarded to an individual or organization who has demonstrated **SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT** for the nursing profession.

City of Hope Library Services

Jeanette Duffels
Kyra Love
Andrea Lynch

MLIS

MMLIS

MLIS

City of Hope's Clinical Librarians—Jeannette Duffels, Kyra Love, and Andrea Lynch—form a powerhouse team, known affectionately as the A-Team, for their invaluable support of nursing. Andrea, the tactical support, actively contributes to nursing recognition efforts, organizes Nurses Week events, and supports community benefits. She's instrumental on the Nursing Workforce Committee, aiding literature reviews and resident skills days.

Jeannette, the resource expert, manages vital resources like Mometrix, a digital test-prep platform, allowing nurses to study for certifications from home. She also highlights essential resources at events like Certified Nurses Day, ensuring nursing staff have all they need to succeed.

Kyra, an Evidence-Based Practice Certified Librarian, assists with literature searches and article sourcing, supporting numerous EBP initiatives such as aromatherapy and patient handling. Her expertise helps nurses navigate databases, track articles, and utilize resources like EndNote. Their dedication uplifts City of Hope nurses, embodying deep respect, admiration, and unwavering support for the profession.

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ACNL-DAISY AWARDS



These awards are presented in collaboration with the
DAISY FOUNDATION

honoring nurses in memory of J. Patrick Barnes!



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BAO VISTA

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Lifetime Achievement Award

CONGRATULATIONS!

Patricia McFarland


MS, RN, FAAN

Patricia "Pat" McFarland has dedicated her career to advancing professional nursing through leadership, mentorship, and advocacy. As CEO of ACNL, she strengthened the organization's foundation and fostered long-term partnerships, including with the California Hospital Association. She collaborated on leadership programs like Foundations for Leadership Excellence, preparing over 2,000 emerging nurse leaders. Her mentorship efforts extended to creating the ACNL mentorship program, now Ignite Your Leadership, supporting hundreds of nurses' growth from direct care to leadership roles. Pat has influenced state nursing policies, worked with the Board of Registered Nursing, and served as a guest lecturer and mentor in multiple nursing programs. Her expertise in patient care standards has shaped national and state practices, including work with CalNOC on care quality and injury prevention. Even in retirement, she continues mentoring and serving on boards that promote nursing education and professional development, leaving a lasting impact on the profession.

 ACNL-Daisy Award!

Grissel is a transformational nursing leader with over 30 years of experience blending clinical practice, education, and research. As Executive Director of Education, Professional Development, and Magnet Program at Stanford Health Care, and Interim Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Research, she has pioneered caring science initiatives and innovative educational programs. Her leadership has resulted in major advancements, including SHC's recognition as a Watson Caring Science Affiliate and the launch of the Humanistic Care Certificate Program, emphasizing inclusion and social justice. A dedicated mentor and advocate for DEI she supports underrepresented nurses and has advanced global holistic nursing through her work with the DAISY Foundation and other professional organizations. Committed to lifelong learning, she holds multiple degrees and certifications, inspiring professional growth while enhancing patient care standards. Grissel's impact and dedication exemplify the values of the ACNL-DAISY Nurse Leader of the Year Award.



 ACNL-Daisy Award!

**Nurse Leader
of the Year!**

**Nurse
Educator
Award!**



Carolyn Drake

**HARLESTON
WELCOME**

Carolyn has dedicated her career to nursing education since 1978, beginning as a clinical instructor at Fresno City College and later serving in leadership roles, including Associate Dean and Director of Nursing. As Dean of Instruction, she expanded Fresno City College's nursing program to the highest enrollment in California. She has mentored hundreds of nurses and earned numerous honors, including the NAACP Award and Top 10 Business and Professional Woman of the Year. Carolyn co-developed the Paradigm Program, which trained over 700 nurses during a critical nursing shortage. Even in retirement, she continues to shape healthcare education as Director of the Phlebotomy Program at Agape College of Business and Science and as President of the Health Education Association. Her lifelong commitment to mentoring, expanding educational access, and increasing diversity in nursing has made a lasting impact on the profession.

 ACNL-Daisy Award!

EDD MSN RN



Nurses Float Scholarship

Created by Bare Root, Inc., with surplus donations for the Nurses Float at the 2013 Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA.

MICHELLE TRUJILLO

RN, BSN, PCCN

Assistant Patient Care Manager
Stanford Healthcare

SCHOOL: California State University East Bay

DEGREE: Master of Science in Nursing

ACNL Leadership Scholarships

AARON E. ACQUISTO

MSN, RN, NEA-BC, GERO-BC, WCC

Director, Nursing Excellence
Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center

SCHOOL: Villanova University
DEGREE: Doctor of Nursing Practice

JALIZA JOHNSON

MBA, MSN, RN, PHN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC

Director, Center for Education
and Professional Development
Stanford Health Care

SCHOOL: University of California, San Francisco
DEGREE: Doctor of Nursing Practice

ARON KING

MS, RN

Assistant Nurse Manager
Kaiser Permanente

SCHOOL: University of California, Davis
DEGREE: PhD, Nursing Science and Healthcare

VANESSA RODRIGUEZ

MSN, FNP-C

Family Nurse Practitioner
University of California, Irvine

SCHOOL: University of California, San Francisco
DEGREE: Doctor of Nursing Practice

I want
to support the vital
work of nurse leaders
That's why I contribute to
CIRCLES OF GIVING!



WHEN YOU JOIN CIRCLES OF GIVING, YOU BECOME AN IMPORTANT PARTNER IN DESIGNING ACNL'S FUTURE WHILE HELPING US GARNER THE CRITICAL DOLLARS TO EXPAND CORE PROGRAMS—GUARANTEED!****

Your donation in any amount will work wonders to further ACNL's work and vision and help shape nurse leadership in California through:

*EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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