



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence celebrates the winners of the 2022 Nursing Excellence Awards

ALBUQUERQUE — On April 15, 2023 the [New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence](#) honored 25 nurses and nurse advocates at the annual [New Mexico Nursing Excellence Awards](#). The award ceremony, hosted at the Sandia Resort & Casino, honored excellence in all levels of nursing practice and leadership.

Throughout its 20-year history the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence has recognized excellence in nursing practice and honored nurses for the contributions they make to their organizations, communities, and our state. Since 2005, over 3,200 nurses throughout the state have been nominated for Nursing Excellence Awards.

“Nurses are always on the front line of health care. Nurses combine the principles of health sciences, with the art of caring, to ensure patient comfort and recovery,” said Robert Middleton, MSN, MBA, RN, CENP and President of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Center For Nursing Excellence. “Our annual Nursing Excellence Awards honor the tireless work of our exceptional nurses.”

The Nursing Excellence Awards were created by nurses for nurses, making this state-wide recognition especially meaningful and prestigious within the nursing profession. Being nominated for an award is in and of itself an incredible honor. Each year, nurses are awarded in the categories of Excellence in Practice, Excellence in Leadership, and Awards of Distinction. In addition, the Nursing Legends category recognizes retired nurses who have made significant contributions to the nursing profession, while the Friend of Nursing Award recognizes efforts outside of nursing that help the profession grow and thrive.

This year’s winners in each awards category are listed below.

Nursing Legends Awards

Terry Fuhs
Barbara Overman
Martha Schwebach

Distinguished Nurse of the Year Award

Deborah Walker – New Mexico Nurses Association

"Touch a Life" Award

Ian Cady – University of New Mexico Hospital

Nurse Executive Leadership Award

Jamie Silva Steele – UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center

Nurse Leadership Award

Stacy Fort – Lovelace Medical Center

Emerging Nurse Leader Award

Sandra Henderson- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center

Nightingale Award

Victoria Atencio – San Juan Regional Medical Center

Community Service Award

Karl Ngoye – Memorial Medical Center

Education, Research, and Academia Award

Sara Daykin – University of New Mexico College of Nursing

Friend of Nursing Award

Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino

Advanced Practice Nursing Award

Jodie Garcia – UNM Medical Group

Ambulatory Nursing Award

Laura Grubb – University of New Mexico Hospital

Behavioral Health Nursing Award

Michelle Adams – Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center

Case, Quality Management, Managed Care and Informatics Nursing Award

Mila Muir – University of New Mexico Hospital

Critical Care Nursing Award

LoraAnn Lovato – UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center

Emergency Nursing Award

Cynthia Campos- CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Home Health & Hospice Nursing Award

Karen Kelso – Presbyterian Healthcare Services

Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Nursing Award

Rafael Castro– Genesis at Silver City Care Center

Maternal-Child and Women's Health Nursing Award
Christopher Gillen – Presbyterian Healthcare Services

Medical and Surgical Nursing Award
Getachew Gobena – University of New Mexico Hospital

Perioperative Nursing Award
Michael Schuster – Lincoln County Medical Center

Public Health, Community, and School Nursing Award
Jan Martin – El Pueblo Health Services

Rural Practice Award
Erica Marquez – New Mexico Department of Health

The New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence wants to recognize Presbyterian Healthcare Services as our presenting sponsor. As Awards Patron sponsors the event was also supported by CHRISTUS St. Vincent Health System. For the eighteenth year in a row, KRQE News 13 was this year's Media Sponsor and anchor Stephanie Chavez acted at the event's mistress of ceremonies. The event was also made a success by the support of volunteers from Central New Mexico Community College and University of New Mexico College of Nursing.

Proceeds from the Nursing Excellence Awards support the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence and its mission.



From bottom left: Martha Schwebach, Erica Marquez, Sara Daykin, Terry Fuhs, Getachew Gobena, Rafael Castro, Michael Schuster, Christopher Gillen, Jodie Garcia, Sandra Henderson, and Karl Ngoye

From top left: Deborah Walker, Jan Martin, Laura Grubb, Mila Muir, Karen Kelso, Stacey Fort, LoraAnn Lovato, Jamie Silva Steele, Cynthia Campos, Victoria Atencio, Michelle Adams, Susan Fox, & Joie Glenn.

Photo by Ray Mares

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The mission of the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence is to advance and engage the nursing community to promote excellence and improve the health of all New Mexicans.