



NAINA BIENNIAL 2026 AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

NAINA Founders Legacy of Caring Award

The NAINA Founders Legacy of Caring Award honors an outstanding nurse who exemplifies the concept of caring by making a significant impact in nursing. Such a nurse demonstrates extraordinary dedication with

patient advocacy, creativity, compassion and leadership in nursing practice to improve the life of an individual patient, organization or community.

Nomination Criteria

1. Be a paid member of a NAINA or one of the local chapters.
2. Actively involved in NAINA or the local chapters contributing to the mission/vision/values.
3. Be present at the awards ceremony of the biennial conference to receive the award.
4. Not a previous recipient of this award.
5. Has more than 20 years of professional nursing experience in the US as of the application deadline.

Documents to be attached:

1. Nomination (A narrative of less than 200 words explaining the reason for the nomination) and any supporting documents to show the evidence of the activity/accomplishment as one pdf.

Demonstrates commitment to the profession of nursing by making a significant impact on the mental, physical or spiritual well-being of a patient, patient's family, organization NAINA and/or community. Refer to the rubric for detailed evaluation criteria.

2. Letter of recommendation from Supervisor, Community Leader, or Chapter President.
3. Professional photograph/ Headshot

Self-nomination allowed.

Please refer to the Rubric section below for award eligibility, evaluation criteria, and scoring details.

Warm regards,

Maya E Joseph, Ph.D., RN, CCRN

Awards and Scholarships Committee Chair, NAINA

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NAINA Founders Legacy of Caring Awards Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (5)	Accomplished (3)	Developing (1)
Demonstrated Compassionate Care	The nominee exemplifies exceptional caring and compassion in nursing practice, making a meaningful and positive impact on the mental, physical, emotional, or spiritual well-being of patients/families/community.	The nominee must exhibited some level of caring and compassion in nursing practice, making a meaningful and positive impact on the mental, physical, emotional, or spiritual well-being of patients/families/community.	Limited evidence of caring and compassion in nursing practice
Advocacy and Positive Impact Beyond immediate practice area	Strong evidence of patient advocacy, and activities that have resulted in improved outcomes or meaningful change beyond immediate practice area	Notable evidence of patient advocacy, and activities that have resulted in improved outcomes or meaningful change beyond immediate practice area	Limited evidence of patient advocacy, and activities that have resulted in improved outcomes or meaningful change beyond immediate practice area
Enduring Legacy of Service and Leadership	Exceptional contributions reflecting a lasting legacy of caring—through leadership, innovation, education, or role modeling—that inspires colleagues and advances the profession of nursing within the community or organization.	Consistent contributions through leadership, innovation, education, or role modeling—that inspires colleagues and advances the profession of nursing within the community or organization.	Limited contributions through leadership, innovation, education, or role modeling—that inspires colleagues and advances the profession of nursing within the community or organization.
Mentorship and Collaboration	Strong evidence of actively uplifting others, sharing credit, and working collaboratively across teams.	Notable engagement in uplifting others, sharing credit, and working collaboratively across teams.	Limited engagement uplifting others, sharing credit, and working collaboratively across teams.
Community Building	Led positive, meaningful, and sustainable changes in their organization or community.	Participated in positive changes in the organization or community.	Created some changes in the organization or community.
Contribution to the organization	Both national and local	National	Local