



**OHIO ORGANIZATION
FOR NURSING LEADERSHIP**
OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Aspiring Nurse Leader Award

History

Back in 2013, the OONL Board and Engagement committee identified the need to create a new OONL award to identify rising nurse leaders within Ohio hospitals. Nurses are inherently leaders and OONL wanted to find a way to recognize nurses regardless of the job title they may hold within their organizations, and regardless of their OONL membership status.

So after much discussion and collaboration, the **“Aspiring Nurse Leader Award”** was born. This award recognizes nurses who demonstrate qualities of emerging nurse leaders and who desire to advance to the next level of leadership, whether it be manager, director or above. The primary focus is on their leadership abilities and their desire to promote nursing.

How the Winner is Selected

Every year the call for Aspiring Nurse Leader award nominations is sent out to the 11 OONL chapter leaders across Ohio so they can begin gathering nominations from their chapters. Once the chapters receive the nominations back, they choose one chapter winner and that winner goes on to become an Aspiring Nurse Leader award finalist. From there, the finalists' nominations are reviewed and one overall winner is chosen and announced at the OONL fall conference.

OONL Leadership Award

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

1. *OONL board/committee activity* – must have held an **OONL board** position (past and/or present), or must have participated on an **OONL board committee**
2. Past attendance at OONL conference
3. OONL Member
4. *Innovative leadership* - workplace, professional or civic, (promotes wellbeing, resiliency and/or diversity and inclusion)
5. *Practice* - promotes professional development, research, presentations, publications, advocacy for patient care or advancement of nursing practice;
6. *Strategic planning* - participation, innovation and ability to execute/implement plans
7. *Mentoring* - role modeling, commitment to education for nurses, or development of future nurse leaders

Note: Individuals who serve on their local OONL chapter board (or chapter committees) are not necessarily eligible for the OONL Leadership award – they must meet the OONL board/committee activity criteria outlined above, as well as all other criteria.

Workforce Wellness Award

The OONL Workforce Wellness award was created in 2023 and is designed for nurses who go above and beyond the expectations of their primary role to support, advocate for, and improve employee wellness. The nominee's leadership qualities should align with AONL's elements of a healthy practice environment and demonstrate leadership strategy that improves the workplace environment promoting care of body, mind and spirit of nursing professionals. Nominees do not need to be OONL members.