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**Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL®) Vanguard Award**

**Call for Award Applications**

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC) are pleased to announce the Call for Nominations for the 2025 CNL Vanguard Award. This national honor recognizes a certified CNL for innovative and outstanding professional performance and advocacy of the CNL skill set. This award promotes the contributions of the CNL in transforming health care. The 2025 recipient will be recognized during the opening session of the CNL Conference hosted by the International Clinical Nurse Leader Association, which will be held in Charlotte, NC, February 13-15, 2025.

**NOTE: The application deadline is December 9, 2024, 5:00 pm (ET).**

**Award:** The CNL Vanguard Award recipient will receive a complimentary registration to the 2025 ICNLA Conference, a commemorative award, a CNL lapel pin, and $500 for travel expenses. (For information about the ICNLA Conference, go to https://cnlassociation.org/upcoming-events/)

**Eligibility Criteria:** The candidate must be nominated by a nursing colleague/co-worker, nursing supervisor, or CNL student. (Previous nominations will be considered but should be updated and reconfirmed with the nominee.) The candidate must meet the following criteria:

* Current CNL Certification
* Employed as a CNL or in a position requiring the CNL skill set and education for a minimum of two years
* Demonstrate innovation in transforming patient care with sustainable outcomes (specific examples of outcomes should be included)
* Demonstrate clinical leadership or professional leadership in developing the CNL skill set through innovative education or academic-practice partnerships
* Serve as a role model contributing positively to the professional practice environment
* Promote change or collaboration within the system to improve quality of patient care
* Advocate for the CNL skill set at the local, state, or national levels

If selected, the recipient must be available to attend the 2025 ICNLA Conference and present a brief 5–10-minute presentation highlighting his/her experiences, actions, and outcomes implementing and advancing the CNL.

**Submission Requirements:**

# The application must include a criteria statement/narrative (not to exceed two pages in length) that explains how the candidate demonstrates the eligibility criteria and two letters of support from individuals other than the individual submitting the application. These individuals may be from academia or practice and should describe the relationship with the CNL nominee, length of time known, and how the CNL nominee embodies the award criteria. The criteria statement/narrative and two letters of support may be submitted as an attachment.

**Application Deadline and Review:** Applications must be received by AACN by **December 9, 2024, 5:00 pm (ET).**

# The application for the 2025 CNL Vanguard Award must include the completed application form (criteria statement/narrative) and two letters of support. All materials must be submitted together. The completed application and letters of support should be submitted electronically to Bridget Bingle at [bbingle@aacnnursing.org.](mailto:bbingle@aacnnursing.org)

A review panel (two members representing AACN and one member of the CNC's Board of Commissioners) will consider all completed applications received by the deadline (December 2, 2024). The recipient will be selected based upon the information submitted describing how the nominee meets the eligibility criteria; preference will be given to the applicant who has demonstrated innovative and effective change for care delivery as well as advocacy of the CNL. The recipient will be notified by Monday, December 16, 2024.

*(By submitting the application, all parties consent and authorize use of the narratives as well as future photos for promotional purposes. Excerpts from the application will be read during the award presentation at the CNL Summit. Descriptions may be included in* a *future database of CNL best practices. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the application to obtain permission from the nominee prior to submitting the application.)*

**Questions?** Contact Dr. Joan Stanley, AACN's Chief Academic Officer, at .[jstanley@aacnnursing.org](mailto:jstanley@aacnnursing.org) or Lynn Gardner, CNC Director of Certification, at [lgardner@aacnnursing.org](mailto:lgardner@aacnnursing.org).

AACN and CNC reserve the right to not present the award in 2025 if it is determined that sufficient qualified applications are not received.

**VANGUARD AWARD**

**APPLICATION**

**Part A**

**Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** , \_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to candidate (check one):**

Colleague/Co-worker  Supervisor  CNL graduate  CNL Student  Other:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I Accept** (By selecting the “I Accept” button, you are signing this application electronically. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this application.)

**Part B**

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**School:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** , **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part C** - Criteria Statement/Narrative (two-page limit)

1. **How has the candidate demonstrated innovation in transforming patient care with sustainable outcomes?** (Specific examples of outcomes should be included.)
2. **How has the candidate demonstrated leadership and contributed to the professional nursing environment?**
3. **How has the candidate advocated for the CNL skill set?**
4. **Additional Information**

**Part D – Letters of Support** (Describe the relationship with the CNL faculty member, length of time known, and how the nominee embodies the award criteria. **Letters of support must accompany the application – attach letters**.)

**Recommended by:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended by:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Credentials:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Deadline:** December 9, 2024; COB 5 p.m. ET

**Send application to:** Bridget Bingle at bbingle@aacnnursing.org