



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating Nursing Excellence: Palmetto Gold Honors 100 South Carolina Nurses with Prestigious Palmetto Gold Award

Columbia, S.C. – The Palmetto Gold program is thrilled to announce the 2025 recipients of its prestigious Palmetto Gold Award, honoring 100 registered nurses from across South Carolina. These extraordinary nurses embody the highest standards of excellence in nursing practice, demonstrating unparalleled dedication to their profession, patients, and communities.

Now in its 22nd year, the Palmetto Gold Award is a hallmark of excellence, recognizing nurses who go above and beyond to elevate the nursing profession. Each year, recipients are chosen through a rigorous selection process that highlights their exceptional leadership, compassionate care, mentorship, and impactful contributions to both their local communities and the broader healthcare landscape.

“These nurses are the heart and soul of healthcare in South Carolina,” said Amy Painter BSN, RN, Chair of the Palmetto Gold Steering Committee. “Their unwavering commitment to their patients, their tireless advocacy for the nursing profession, and their profound impact on the lives they touch every day are truly inspiring. The Palmetto Gold Award is more than recognition—it’s a celebration of the power of nursing to transform lives, strengthen communities, and shape the future of healthcare.”

Beyond celebrating individual achievement, the Palmetto Gold program is a cornerstone for advancing nursing education in South Carolina. Proceeds from the annual gala provide scholarships to every registered nurse undergraduate program in the state. Since awarding its first scholarships in 2003, Palmetto Gold has contributed more than \$560,000 to support the next generation of nursing leaders. The program also established the Renetta Loquist Graduate Nursing Scholarship in 2008, honoring an influential nurse leader and member of the original Palmetto Gold committee.

“Palmetto Gold not only honors our most exceptional nurses, but it also invests in the future of the profession,” added Painter. “By supporting nursing education, we ensure that South Carolina remains a leader in providing innovative, compassionate, and world-class care.”

The 2025 Palmetto Gold Gala will take place on Saturday, April 26, in Columbia, South Carolina, where this year’s 100 honorees will be celebrated for their extraordinary achievements.

Since its inception in 2002, the Palmetto Gold program has recognized over 2,200 nurses who embody the essence of nursing excellence, advancing the profession and uplifting those they serve.

A full list of this year’s honorees is attached.

For more information about the Palmetto Gold program and to view the full list of this year’s honorees, visit SCPalmettoGold.org.

Beaufort Memorial Hospital

Karen Carroll
Tricia Evegán

Berkeley Community Mental Health Center

Jakara Hodges

Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center

Ashley Brown
Karen Hunter
Komesha Ashe

Clemson University, School of Nursing

Charlotte Branyon

Columbia VA Health Care System

Caitlin Rosansky
Jacqueline Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Rochelle Windley

Conway Medical Center

Treena Thibodeau

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital

Nicole Jennings

Grand Strand Medical Center

Jonathan Cashwell
Michael Henson

HCA Healthcare - South Atlantic Division

Chuck "Gregory" Pittman
Ellena "Nina" Evans

HopeHealth

Leah Jeffords

Lexington Medical Center

Brandi Ellisor
Kayleigh Setropawiro

Lexington Medical Center - Community Medical Centers

Sarah Stitely

Lexington Medical Center Physician Network

Allison Auld
Mandi Cowsert

Lexington Medical Center Quality Management - Ambulatory

John Allen Meetze, Jr.

McLeod Health Clarendon

Deanna Weatherford
Jennifer Amaker
Teri "Jil" Hopkins

McLeod Health Loris

Ashley Godwin
Melissa Jones
Rutina Nobles

McLeod Regional Medical Center

Kathryn McLeod

Medical University of SC College of Nursing

Amy Smith
Sharon Kozachik

MUSC Community Physicians

Christi Stubbs
Kim James

MUSC Health - Black River Medical Center

Brandy Hysong
Brittany Walker
Milton Richards

MUSC Health - Florence Medical Center

Felicia McQueen
Gwendolyn Lowery
Joanalyn Nobleza

MUSC Health - Marion Medical Center

Eboni Johnson
Whitney Hewett

MUSC Health - Midlands

Stacy Branham

MUSC Health - Mullins Nursing Center

Angela Thompson

MUSC Health Columbia Medical Center

Jennifer Minick

Neriah Community Development

Sheila Brown

Omega Psychiatric Solutions

Kim Gilmore

Pelham Medical Center

Danika Moore
Rebekah Preston

Prisma Health Baptist Easley Hospital

Colt Shope
Lisa Lecroy

Prisma Health Baptist Parkridge

Ashley Simons

Prisma Health Behavioral Health Hospital

Lucinda Easler

Prisma Health Children's Hospital

Amanda Felder
Kelly Melton

Prisma Health Corporate

Rebekah Reese

Prisma Health Hillcrest Hospitals

Jennifer Rogers

Prisma Health Hillcrest Hospital

Jessica Hopkins

Prisma Health Oconee Memorial Hospital

Ashley Smith
Elliott Corder
Hannah Turner
Joni Metler

Prisma Health Patewood

Kayla Williamson

Prisma Health Richland- Heart & Vascular Institute

Max Danis

Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital

Melissa Bailey

Ralph H Johnson VA Healthcare System

Anna Rozes

Roper Hospital

Drake Bastin
Jessica Thiessen

Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital

Kimberly Barrineau
Patricia Peterson
Star Austin

Roper St. Francis Healthcare

Susan Bennett

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital

Brandon Martin
Helen Russo
Jann Malone Murrell
Khrystyne Morales
Lyzabeth Hoffer
Phyllis Klagges

Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital

Catherine Carson
Charon Manigault
Julia Ferguson

SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Deitra Watson
Sally Harper

SC Department of Public Health - Central Office

Ivy Howard
Stephanie Derr

SC Department of Public Health -Lowcountry

Enderia Mitchell
Michelle Plenzer
Sharon Bennett
Tina Rumph

Self Regional Healthcare

Ali Baughman
Tonya Williams

Spartanburg Medical Center - Church Street

Jennifer Vigodsky
Shana Green
Sheryl Lassiter

Tidelands Health

Shelly Laird

University of South Carolina

Carolyn Sue-Ling
Jacqueline Haverkamp
Teresa Bowers

University of South Carolina Aiken

Hannah Mottel