



HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY  
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

# Congratulations to the Recipients of the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educators



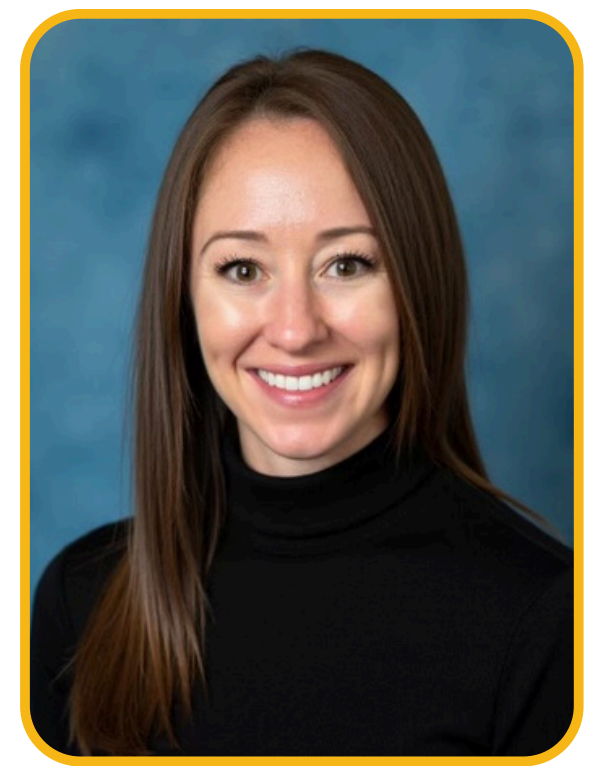
**Stephen Cannon**  
BSN, RN, CCRN

Lead LPN Instructor  
Holy Name Sister Claire Tynan  
School of Nursing



**Nicholas Casavecchia**  
BSN, RN

Resource Nurse  
Hackensack Meridian Health  
Bayshore Medical Center

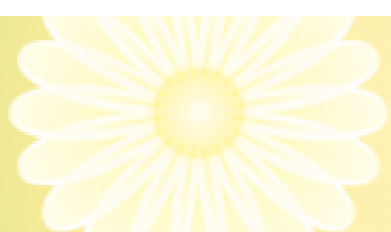


**Kristen Dudas**  
MSN, RN, CCRN-CSC

Nursing Professional Development  
Practitioner  
Robert Wood Johnson  
University Hospital New Brunswick

**Award Purpose:** The purpose of this DAISY Award is to recognize exceptional nurses in clinical practice or simulation who exhibit, inspire, and nurture compassion and respect amongst peers, mentees, students, or colleagues. These nurses directly influence learning in clinical practice/simulation and play a crucial role in forming exceptional nurses. In turn, these individuals encourage nurses or nursing students to exhibit acts of compassion and build relationships with patients and families.

Nurses eligible for this award include those who influence and develop nurses or nursing students at the site of direct or simulated patient care. Eligible nurses include formal educators by title/role and informal educators not defined by their job description or title.





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## **Stephen Cannon**

**BSN, RN, CCRN**

Lead LPN Instructor

Holy Name Sister Claire Tynan

School of Nursing

### **Nomination Submitted by Aliyah Fernandez, LPN Student**

Instructor Cannon fosters a compassionate environment where learners (Such as us his LPN students!) flourish by prioritizing empathy, inclusivity, and emotional support in his educational practices. He understands that each learner is unique, with individual strengths, challenges, and backgrounds, and he creates a safe space where everyone feels valued and respected which is what made me want to nominate him! Instructor Cannon actively listens to students, encourages open communication, and provides constructive feedback that boosts confidence and motivates learners. He implements teaching methods that cater to diverse learning styles, ensuring that all students can engage meaningfully with the material. By demonstrating patience and understanding, Instructor Cannon helps learners overcome obstacles and reach their full potential. His passion for his craft shines through in his dedication to ensuring all students comprehend the material, instilling hope, and making them feel comfortable in his classroom. One of Instructor Cannon's key characteristics is his innovative approach to teaching. He integrates technology and creative instructional strategies to make learning more engaging and effective. For instance, Instructor Cannon utilizes interactive tools such as virtual simulations, gamified learning platforms, and collaborative online projects to enhance student participation and deepen understanding. In our class, we primarily use Nearpods, where he consistently rewards students, making the learning process engaging and reinforcing comprehension of the lecture material. This approach not only makes learning enjoyable but also cultivates critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, Instructor Cannon emphasizes the importance of group projects, which facilitate active engagement among students. These collaborative activities help our small LPN class work together cohesively, fostering a sense of unity while aiding in the comprehension of the material presented. Group projects encourage peer-to-peer learning, enabling students to support one another and develop teamwork skills essential for their future careers.

In conclusion, Instructor Cannon's ability to foster a compassionate learning environment, coupled with his innovative teaching methods and commitment to continuous improvement, has a profound and positive impact on us the learners' growth and development. His passion for his craft and dedication to his students make him an exemplary educator who truly makes a difference as a LPN student he has given me hope that not only will I be a great nurse but also an amazing student who will excel in the future as we all continue our nursing career's. And for that I would like to thank him forever for his support and dedication to his students.

### **Nomination Submitted by Margarita Marucci, LPN Student**

Professor Cannon is a strong believer that people do not learn under stress. Therefore he's a very caring, compassionate understanding educator that acknowledges how everyone has different learning capabilities and works closely with each individual.

Professor Cannon has developed strategies in the classroom during the first couple of weeks of getting to know his students and the strategies he implemented realizing how each individual learns in a different manner, the strategies include games of memorization and visuals for those of us that either memorize or visual learners. He also caters to those that like to be rewarded for participating and answering correctly in the classroom.



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**Nicholas Casavecchia**  
**BSN, RN**

Resource Nurse  
Hackensack Meridian Health  
Bayshore Medical Center

**Nomination Submitted by Sarah Mandel, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CCRN, CNML**

The resource nurse program started last year in 2023. Nick was one of the first people to volunteer for this new role. The job duties were loosely defined as someone who aids in the development of the bedside nurse, but there was really no specification as to how this was to be achieved. Nick made the role his own and set the standard for resource nurses in the hospital. Not only does Nick round on the floor to help the nurses identify at-risk patients, but he gets to know them as individuals and learns more about their growth and development opportunities. For example, a nurse on the observation floor had never completed a straight catheterization, so Nick made it a point to search through the hospital and find an opportunity for the nurse to perform this skill on another unit, an opportunity she would not have had he not been there.

Nick is not only concerned with the development of nurses, but also takes opportunities to further develop his skill set so he can positively impact change. Nick was the first resource nurse to take a class on ultrasound guided IV insertion and is now orienting his colleagues on the process to improve patient care and satisfaction. He has created an environment where nurses feel supported in asking for his help and can expand on their knowledge in a judgmental free, safe space and an environment where continued growth and education is something that everyone should be striving for.

His next step is to compile common practice deficiencies he sees throughout his rounds to share with the nursing education department to ensure that the skills taught in annual competency are skills that the nurses actually need help with. Nick is supportive, knowledgeable, and collaborative, all things that are important for a resource nurse, mentor, and informal educator, and all reasons why I believe he deserves this award.



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**Kristen Dudas**  
**MSN, RN, CCRN-CSC**

Nursing Professional  
Development Practitioner  
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
New Brunswick

### **Nomination Submitted by Alberto Rodriguez, Director of Nursing Education**

Our nominee is an example of a person who truly looks to ensure that the orientees that are new to her practice area feel comfortable in the transition to their new roles. She does this by fostering an environment where learners can flourish. She has the ability to empathize with learners, understanding their diverse backgrounds and challenges as they navigate the transition from a novice nurse to an expert nurse. Kristen employs personalized approaches to teaching that cater to individual learning styles. Realizing that not all learners are the same, she meets with them prior to orientation beginning and creates a plan that meets their learning style. In addition, she meets with them regularly to target areas where they are struggling, and she uses innovative methods such as simulation in our simulation lab to build confidence and ability. Part of the process is also creating an environment that encourage open communication, ensuring learners feel heard and supported.

Next, as the learner navigates the nuances of the clinical area (the CVICU; cardiovascular intensive care unit) she provides constructive feedback that motivates learners to improve and succeed. Lastly, she celebrates individual achievements, by fostering a sense of accomplishment and growth as the orienting nurse is able to successfully complete the orientation and care for some of our acutely ill patients and continue to expand their knowledge base week to week. Her ability to connect with the nurses has allowed for strong retention rates and nurses who provide exceptional care. Kristen is very instrumental in helping the learner to bridge theoretical concepts to clinical practice, which promotes critical thinking and clinical judgment. She developed a curriculum and orientation program that allowed the nurse to learn theory in a classroom/clinical setting prior to applying it in practice. She tailored the orientation to match the level of skills of the learner. For example, she assessed the skills of a medical/surgical nurse transitioning to her unit to ensure he would be successful. First, she administered a competency assessment exam. Based on how he “scored”, she developed an orientation plan that consisted of specific lectures, practice in the simulation lab, and orientation on a step-down unit as pre-work to working in the CVICU. At the time of the completion of this part of the orientation, she re-administered the competency assessment to measure the effectiveness of the plan. Her ability to do this individually for the orientees she is responsible for on her unit has been amazing and has resulted in expertly prepared nurses demonstrated by positive patient outcomes.



**The DAISY**  
FOUNDATION™



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## **Congratulations to all of the 2024 DAISY Nominees**

### **NJLN DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educators**

- **Amanda Alvarado**, BSN, RN, BMTCN, OCN, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick
- **Polina Amburg**, PhD, RN, MS, Hackensack Meridian Health and RWJBarnabas Health
- **Mariana Beltran**, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN, RWJBH, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center
- **Clarese Bradley-Crenshaw**, DNP, ACNP-BC, Centrastate Medical Center
- **Laura Brown**, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, Cooper University Health Care
- **Jessica Chung-Huey Ho**, DNP, RN, PED-BC, CLNC, Jersey City Medical Center
- **Diana Marie Constantino**, MSN, AGPCNP-BC, RN-BC, ACUE, Bergen Community College & Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
- **Joana Marie Constantino**, MSN, AGPCNP-BC, RN, Bergen Community College, Holy Name, & Family of Caring
- **Holly Curcio**, MSN, RN, CCRN, NPD-BC, Jefferson Health - Cherry Hill Hospital
- **Michelle Gilbert**, Phd, RN, CNE, Felician University
- **Danyelle LaisieSmith**, BSN, RN, CNOR, Hackensack Meridian Health
- **Michael Migliore**, MSN, RN, Centrastate Medical Center
- **Dana Misso**, MSN, RN OCN, Hackensack Meridian Health
- **Guy Moyer**, MSN, RN, CEN, Hackensack Meridian Health Riverview Medical Center
- **Adriana Nashid**, MSN, RN, RWJBH, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center
- **Emmanuel Owuor**, MSN, RN, University Hospital, Newark
- **Donna Rizzolo**, MSN, RN, BC-CV, CNE, Hackensack Meridian Health, Southern Ocean Medical Center
- **Christine Savini**, MSN, RN, CMSRN, CPPS, CNL, NPD-BC, Jefferson Health East Region
- **Shannon Scott**, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, Hackensack Meridian Health, Riverview Medical Center
- **Jessica Stanford**, MSN, RN, RWJBH, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center
- **Catherine Swagger**, MSN, RN, AC-CPNP, Holy Name Medical Center School of Nursing
- **Tesla Teitge-Mergenthaler**, MSN, RN, CEN, AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
- **Allison Toto**, MSN, RN, CNOR, Hackensack Meridian Health Riverview Medical Center

**We thank all who took the time to nominate an extraordinary nurse by sharing your nomination submission with us!**

