

2026 Heroes in Action Categories

- **ADVANCED PRACTICE**
 - Nurse with post-graduate education in nursing, prepared with advanced didactic and clinical education, knowledge, skills, and scope of practice in nursing; Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). *Please see specific categories for Advanced Practice.*
- **ADVANCED PRACTICE – CRITICAL CARE**
- **ADVANCED PRACTICE – ADULT**
- **ADVANCED PRACTICE – PEDIATRICS**
- **CHARGE NURSE/FRONTLINE SUPERVISOR**
 - Includes nurses who function in the charge nurse or front-line supervisor role.
- **CRITICAL CARE-PEDIATRICS**
 - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), special care nursery, intensive care nursery (ICN), special care baby units, nursery, general pediatric units, and pediatric step-down units.
- **CRITICAL CARE -ADULT**
 - Individuals that work in areas such as the ICU, cardiac care unit (CCU), intermediate care unit (IMC) or other critical care areas.
- **EDUCATION**
 - Includes University, College, Community College, Hospital and Community Nurse Educators, Faculty, and Professors
- **EMERGENCY CARE AND TRAUMA SERVICES**
 - ER, flight, ambulance, pediatric ER, triage, urgent care, and trauma settings
- **GENERAL MEDICAL –ADULT**
 - Medical, orthopedics, neurological, cardiology, renal, oncology, and respiratory nurses.
- **HEALTHCARE SUPPORT PARTNERS**
 - Recognizes a partner (or vendor) within a hospital setting or in the Maternal Child Health Field. Examples include Doulas, Midwives, Medical Device Partners, Therapy Services, and other vendors
- **MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
 - Nurses who practice in the areas of mental health, including: chemical dependency.
- **NURSING ADMINISTRATION**
 - Includes entrepreneurs, consultants, CNE's, VP's, administrative directors, department directors/managers, academic nursing administrators.
- **OUTPATIENT, OFFICE, AND COMMUNITY CARE**
 - Public health, clinic, office and other ambulatory care settings, school nurses, transplant coordinators, parish and prison nursing and occupational nurses. Home Health care, Care and Case management professionals

- **PEDIATRICS –GENERAL CARE**
 - Nurses, and all units including pediatric ambulatory clinics who work in pediatric care.
- **RISING STAR**
 - Nurses with **fewer than 5 years** of experience who exemplify outstanding patient care, leadership and professionalism.
- **STUDENT NURSE**
 - Nursing student enrolled in a RN or BSN nursing program
- **SURGICAL SERVICES**
 - Surgical services including perioperative, preoperative, post anesthesia care unit (PACU) and inpatient/outpatient surgery.
- **WOMEN’S HEALTH & OBSTETRICS**
 - Antepartum, intrapartum, maternal/baby care, postpartum and gynecology.