

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER OF THE WOCN® SOCIETY OUTSTANDING WOC NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD CRITERIA

The RMC WOC Nurse of the Year award recognizes a colleague who exemplifies excellence in WOC Nursing via contributions to mentorship, professional and patient education or excellence in research or writing. An individual who meets the **general** criteria listed below AND who also meets the criteria for a **focus** area may be nominated for this award. One recipient each year will be selected.

Nominations for the Nurse of the Year Award must be submitted via the RMC website by the designated deadline. The award will be presented at our Annual Chapter Fall Conference. All nominees meeting the criteria for the award will receive a certificate of recognition.

General Criteria

- Nominee must be a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of WOCN for a minimum of two years.
- Nominee must demonstrate active participation and ongoing commitment/support of the activities of the WOCN Society. Examples are listed below and should be included in the Letter of Nomination for the WOC of the Year. (Nominee does not need to demonstrate contribution to all of these activities.)
 - Attendance at Chapter or National Conferences
 - Regular attendance at local WOCN meetings and events
 - Assistance with fundraising or charity events
 - Participation on local, chapter or national committees
- Nominee must be board certified, (WOCNCB)
- Nominee practices WOC Nursing with 50% of time in direct patient care related to WOC Nursing

Focus Criteria

- The nominee must also meet the criteria for **ONE** of the following focus areas:
 - Mentorship
 - Patient Education
 - Professional Education
 - Excellence in Writing/Research

Mentorship Focus

One of the most important reasons for belonging to a professional organization is personal and professional growth. This takes place through formal education but also as seasoned members nurture and guide colleagues. Mentors are established professionals who realize the value of experience and provide leadership to less experienced colleagues in the form of caring, concern and direction. Nominees for the RMC WOC Nurse of the Year may be recognized for their generosity and dedication to WOC Nursing by extending themselves far beyond the demands of their employment positions.

Criteria for Nomination:

The nominee must meet the general criteria and must demonstrate their support of WOC Nursing as exhibited by **three** of the following:

- Assists another member in the development of a formal educational offering for nursing staff or WOC colleagues.
- Assists another member in the development of a professional poster presentation, research paper or an article submitted for publication, permitting the "student" to be the primary author and establish themselves in the professional community.
- Provides instruction to a colleague regarding issues related to successful marketing or management of his/her career as a WOC Nurse.
- Serves as a preceptor for a community based nursing program or WOC Nursing Education Program.
- Consistently shares career growth information with colleagues.
- Assists a colleague in the development of a program, materials or other project, which permits the "student" to be recognized.
- Is available to answer questions and provide support.
- Teaches new skills or knowledge on a 1-to-1 basis with the "student".

Patient Education Focus

Patient teaching is an important part of WOC Nursing, involving interpersonal interactions in trusting relationships between the patient and nurse. Nominees who demonstrate exemplary contributions to patient education may be considered.

Criteria for Nomination

The nominee must meet the general criteria and must demonstrate their support of WOC Nursing as exhibited by **one** of the following:

- Develop an original instructional material or teaching method that meets a special need within the scope of WOC Nursing, (example: videos, models, posters, pamphlets, booklets, handouts, etc.).
- Have given educational presentations to lay people related to a topic within the scope of WOC Nurse practice (example: health fairs, lectures at support groups, or participation in wellness programs, etc.).

Professional Education Focus

Education for WOC practice must keep pace with evolving scientific knowledge and the standards influencing the development, application, and evaluation of our practice. WOC nurses who demonstrate exemplary qualities in professional education, both to peers and other healthcare professionals may be recognized for contributions.

Criteria for Nomination

The nominee must meet the general criteria and demonstrates sound organizational skills and well-articulated knowledge base; presents information in an engaging manner with appropriate audio-visual tools; states and meets clear objectives for presentations; and provides outstanding professional education that addresses the following needs:

- New approaches to nursing problems.



- Increase in the healthcare professional's competence (knowledge & skills) towards enhancing the quality of patient care.
- Updates on evidence-based practice.
- Positive image of WOC profession to the healthcare community.

Excellence in Writing or Research Focus

The WOC Nurse of the Year nominee may be recognized for excellence in original or contributions to professional writing or research. Excellence in writing or research encompasses writing articles for publication, creating posters for presentation or research surrounding wound, ostomy, or continence issues. To nominate an individual for WOC Nurse of the Year with a focus on writing/research, submit the nomination form with 1 copy of the manuscript/research article or poster.

Criteria for nomination

Nominees for the award must be named as primary or secondary author on the manuscript, poster or research project. The manuscript/research article must be published or accepted for publication, or the poster must be accepted for presentation at a professional conference. The manuscript, research article or poster will be judged on the following criteria:

- Relevance & significance of contribution to WOC Nursing practice
- Originality
- Validity
- Writing style

