



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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For Immediate Release
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National Black Nurses Association Announces the 2021 NBNA Under 40 Awardees

The National Black Nurses Association is pleased to announce the 2021 Under 40 Awardees. “These nurses are our shining stars. They are the next generation of nurse leaders,” stated Dr. Martha A. Dawson, NBNA President. “These NBNA members are excited about their career paths and look forward to heading to the very top of the career ladder as chief nursing officers, deans of schools of nursing, business leaders, innovators and influencers.” “The Under 40 Award honors and celebrates NBNA members who are 40 years old and under who have shown strong leadership in nursing and demonstrated excellence and innovation in their practice setting, in their NBNA chapters and in the communities they serve,” stated Dr. Rebecca Harris-Smith, Chair, 40 and Under Committee.

The awards will be given on Saturday, August 7, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., during the Awards and Scholarships Ceremony, which is part of the 49th Annual NBNA Institute and Conference, August 4-8, 2021 and 50th Anniversary Celebration. This is a virtual conference.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Celebrating 50 Years of Innovative Community Service, Practice, Education, and Research in Nursing.” NBNA is expecting 500 nurses and student nurses to attend the conference. NBNA is comprised of nurses at all levels, from LPNs to nurses prepared at the doctoral level; bedside clinicians, chief nursing officers, deans of schools of nursing, researchers, academicians, policy advocates and entrepreneurs.

2021 NBNA Under 40 Awardees



Benita N. Chatmon, PHD, MSN, RN, CNE
Assistant Dean for Clinical Nursing Education
Louisiana State University Health
New Orleans School of Nursing
New Orleans, LA
New Orleans Black Nurses Association

Benita N. Chatmon, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE, provides services on several community boards and is the Co-Medical Director for the Baton Rouge Free Clinic, where she assists in providing free care to over 450 people in her community. Dr. Chatmon currently holds an appointment in the School of Graduate Studies at LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans. She also serves as a Nurse Researcher at Children's Hospital New Orleans and is a member of the New Orleans Black Nurses Association. Dr. Chatmon has received numerous awards and she aspires to become a dean or director of a school of nursing.



Javier V. Davis, BSN, RN
Staff Nurse
University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital
Birmingham, AL
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

Javier Vessell Davis, BSN, RN, is currently pursuing a graduate degree as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at Walden University. Javier is very active in her community serving as a Board Member for a Community Behavioral Health Agency. Ms. Davis volunteers in her church, serves as a preceptor to nursing students, and is a member of Birmingham Black Nurses Association. Javier plan is to own and operate an outpatient mental health facility.



Fayola Delica, BSHSE, BSN, RN, DMin (Hon)
Coach/Consultant
Fayola Delica, LLC
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association

Fayola Delica, BSHSE, BSN, RN, DMin (Hon), is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner Degree at Purdue Global University. She is an active member of the Miami Chapter, Black Nurses Association and has served on several committees. Her community involvement focuses on membership and leadership in several Haitian organizations, and she has received numerous rewards. Upon completion of the MSN-FNP program, she would like to work in a hospital setting for several years, start a private community clinic practice, continue medical mission trips around the world, run for public office and work as a faculty member in academia.



Natalie J. C. Kelley, BSN, RN-BC
Staff Nurse
Methodist Richardson Medical Center
Richardson, TX
Metroplex Black Nurses Association – Dallas

Natalie J. C. Kelley, BSN, RN-BC, is a member of the Metroplex Black Nurses Association. She is the Chief Executive Officer of Green Heart Education, a professional nurse consultant agency that provides educational services to organizations and the community. Natalie currently works at Methodist Richardson Medical Center as a bedside nurse and as a preceptor. She is a mentor and Clinical Site Investigator for research conducted at the medical center. Ms. Kelly plans to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing degree (MSN) with an emphasis in public health to compliment her passion for professional nursing and her interests in population health and health policy.



Biyyiah A. Lee, BSN, RN, PAHM
Cannabis Nurse Education and Advocate
Midwest CannaNursesTM
Detroit, MI
Illinois South Suburban National Black Nurses Association

Biyyiah A. Lee, BSN, RN, PAHM, is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing Degree in Advanced Public Health Nursing and a Bridge Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice at Wayne State University. She is an active member of the Illinois South Suburban National Black Nurses Association. She serves on the City of Detroit's Social Equity Program Workgroup and was the Education and Workforce Development Co-Chair in 2020. Ms. Lee worked to develop the Midwest CannaNursesTM an organization that was formed to connect cannabis and healthcare by offering educational resources and advocating for de-stigmatization and decriminalization in communities of color.



Shawana S. Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC
Assistant Professor and Director of Women's Health
Gender Related Nurse Practitioner Program
Thomas Jefferson University
College of Nursing
Philadelphia, PA
Southeastern Pennsylvania Area Black Nurses Association

Shawana S. Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, provides clinical practice in underserved areas, providing women's health care services in Camden, NJ and Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Moore developed a nurse-led pre-natal program which aims at ending period poverty and Breastfeeding Awareness Empowerment to support breastfeeding for Black women. Dr. Moore is a member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Area Black Nurses Association. Dr. Moore has served as the Principal Investigator for numerous grants, presented at multiple events and has published. Dr. Moore's goal is to become an independently funded clinical researcher and tenured faculty.



Tiffany Ponder, MSN, RN
Adjunct Nursing Instructor, Emergency Nurse
CAAN Academy of Nursing, Ingalls Hospital
Mattson, IL
Illinois South Suburban National Black Nurses Association

Tiffany Ponder, MSN, RN, is currently employed at the University of Chicago – Ingalls and is a member of the Illinois South Suburban Black Nurses Association where she is active in the organization and community. Tiffany is a nurse researcher that is interested in exploring the lack of diversity in the workplace, education and theory development that has negatively impacted both African American nurses and patients. Ms. Ponder plans to open an organization to teach leadership skills and develop good “nurse intuition” in new nurses by aiding hospitals in developing high-yielding nurse residency and education programs covering topics like critical thinking, prioritization and communication.



Brittany R. Richards, DNP, FNP-BC, RN-BC
Assistant Professor
New York City College of Technology
Brooklyn, NY
Greater New York City Black Nurses Association

Brittany R. Richards, DNP, FNP-BC, RN-BC, is a member of the Greater New York City Black Nurses Association where she is an active member of the organization and community. Brittany serves as a board member for Seed of Fortune and Friend of New York City Nurse Family Partnership. She has received several awards. She is a board-certified practitioner who would like to obtain board certification as a Nurse Educator, as well as tenure and promotion to Full

Professor. It is her desire to publish to build on her scholarly activity. In 10 years, Dr Richard hopes to become a Fellow of New York Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Nursing.



Melanie Wren, BSN, MHCA, BS, AS
Staff Nurse
University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital
Birmingham, AL
Birmingham Black Nurses Association

Melanie Wren, BSN, RN, MHCA, BS, AS is currently employed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital and is a member of the Birmingham Black Nurses Association. She is an active member of her organization and community where she hosted local blood drives and served as a CPR instructor. She presented her scientific research at the National Biomedical Conference and the Research for Creative Symposium. Ms. Wren plans to obtain a DNP and become a nurse entrepreneur. She hopes to utilize her healthcare administration degree to implement policy changes and practices to make the nursing profession more efficient and forward.

About the National Black Nurses Association

Founded in 1971, the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is a professional organization representing 308,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, and nursing students in 108 chapters and 34 states. The NBNA mission is “to serve as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health.” NBNA chapters offer voluntary hours providing health education and screenings to community residents in collaboration with community-based partners, including faith-based organizations, civic, fraternal, hospitals, and schools of nursing. For more information, visit nbna.org. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)!

#NBNAResilient, #NBNACelebrates50Years, #NBNAConference21