



Stony Brook
School of Nursing

16th Annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony



PROFILE BOOKLET

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Congratulations to all of our Recipients



Laurie Aguirre

LAURIE AGUIRRE

Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Foundation Award

Master's Student/ Family Nurse Practitioner

Middle Island, NY

She/Her

Being an adult learner has been quite challenging, since I am balancing the demands of my employment, academic studies, and family needs.

Being chosen as a scholarship recipient is always a humbling experience. Stony Brook recognizes that adult learners face challenges as well. The inclusive atmosphere here has strengthened my belief to support others who seek my same path.

I hope to use my current nursing experience, coupled with my studies as a Family Nurse Practitioner, to start a career in Women's Health. This area has and always will be my passion.

You have lightened the financial burden on my shoulders for this single mother of two. More than that, I am honored that the faculty of Stony Brook University felt I was deserving of this special award.

“You have lightened the financial burden on my shoulders for this single mother of two. More than that, I am honored that the faculty of Stony Brook University felt I was deserving of this special award.”

- Laurie Aguirre



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Stony Brook Medicine

Alice Anacacy

Jean M. Belia Award

Senior / Nursing

Uniondale, NY

She/Her

This scholarship gave me financial breathing room to afford nursing essentials like clinical supplies, allowing me to focus more fully on my demanding coursework and rotations at Stony Brook. Beyond academics, it served as a vote of confidence that motivated me to stay engaged.

I chose Stony Brook because I wanted an exceptional school that would set me apart from other students. It offers world-class academics and hands-on research opportunities, which help me build the skills and experience to stand out.

I'm planning to start as a nurse, building a strong foundation and earning certifications along the way to sharpen my skills. From there, I want to pursue my master's and become a Family Nurse Practitioner so I can take on greater responsibility and really make an impact in patient care. It's a steady climb where each step prepares me for the next.

"Thank you so much for this scholarship, it truly came at the perfect time. Your generosity gave me the space to focus on my nursing studies at Stony Brook without stressing over every little expense. I'm so grateful to have people like you supporting my journey, and I hope to make you proud as I continue working toward becoming a nurse."

- Alice Anacacy



Stony Brook Medicine

Robert Boyce

Academic Excellence Award - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Master's Student/ Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Ridgewood, NY

He/Him

I attended SUNY Downstate for my bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and had a great experience with the SUNY system. In fact, our dean of nursing at Downstate is a Stony Brook alum. I believe strongly in public hospitals and public education, and I wanted to continue my trajectory by moving to the SUNY flagship. Stony Brook has been known to me as an excellent institution since I was young, so I saw this as the right opportunity to experience it for myself. I was confident enough in my choice that I didn't apply anywhere else, and I am glad to have done so. It saved me some application fees, and it's been a great experience.

In December I began work on a scoping review on near-infrared photobiomodulation as a metabolic primer for transcranial magnetic stimulation. I have been too busy to get any work done this semester, but I am looking forward to getting back to that this summer once I have some free time on my hands.

I have met some wonderful people here, both students and faculty. The connections I have made here have made it a richer experience and I have benefitted from gaining friends and perspectives. The scholarship is an honor, I am so grateful and happy to be awarded this recognition. I hope that the perspectives and experiences I have brought to SBU has been able to enrich the experiences of the people around me in the way that the Stony Brook community has done for me.

“Thank you so much for your generosity. I am honored to have been chosen for this scholarship and truly appreciate your support. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Stony Brook and am grateful to be part of this community.”

- Robert Boyce





Stony Brook Medicine

Ericka Cabañas

Sigma Award in Recognition for Doretta Dick

Senior/Nursing

New York, NY

She/Her

Receiving the Sigma Award in Recognition of Doretta Dick is an honor that I hold with heartfelt gratitude. This scholarship represents far more than academic achievement; it affirms a part of myself shaped by sacrifice, resilience, and determination.

From an early age, my parents taught me that success is not measured solely by personal achievement, but by the positive difference one makes in serving others. These values have become the foundation of how I approach life, leading with compassion and integrity; to be recognized in this way is both humbling and personal.

This recognition further encourages me to continue using evidence-based writing as a means of advocacy and greater purpose. Beyond academics, it validates the importance of using my voice with intention and humility—to speak for those whose experiences may otherwise go unheard, and to contribute meaningfully to the nursing profession.

“I want to sincerely express my gratitude for your generosity, which has made a meaningful difference in my journey and aspirations. So much of being a student is made up of hard work that often goes unnoticed—long hours of study, quiet sacrifices, and the constant effort to grow into someone capable of helping others. Your support and recognition have reminded me that the work I pour my heart into does matter. Thank you for helping me feel encouraged, valued, and seen.”

- Ericka Cabañas



David Castelli

David Castelli

Hilda R. Maier Endowed Scholarship

Senior/Nursing

Huntington, NY

He/Him

This scholarship has allowed me to focus more on my academic and clinical responsibilities without the added stress of financial burdens. It has given me the opportunity to dedicate more time to studying and developing the skills to become a compassionate and knowledgeable nurse. It has also motivated me to continue working hard and give back to my community in the future.

I am currently participating in a research study that focuses on the development of an assistive collaborative robot system designed to help individuals with ALS with activities of daily living. In the study, I work in a robotics lab environment where participants learn how to train and operate the robot to perform tasks using a tablet. It shows how technology and healthcare can work together to improve independence and quality of life for patients with complex conditions.

“Receiving this scholarship has had a meaningful impact on my experience as a nursing student at Stony Brook University. This support not only assists me academically, but also motivates me to continue striving for excellence as I prepare for a career in nursing. I am grateful for the opportunities this scholarship provides and for your investment in the education and future of students like myself.”

- David Castelli



Stony Brook Medicine



Stephanie Chen

Stephanie Chen

Julia O. Wells Memeorial Education Foundation Award

Senior/Nursing

New York, NY

She/Her

I have been the Community Health Director for the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association for the last two years, and I have also been a vocalist for Music & Medicine since I started attending Stony Brook. Both organizations have allowed me to interact on a deeper level with my community and helped me develop my identity as a person. I've been very fortunate to fulfil roles in which I am able to engage others to participate in service and grow in both academic and creative ways - which includes myself as well.

My clinical instructors throughout my time in the nursing program have been very influential in my professional growth as a future nurse. The education and instruction I've obtained from my instructors have been extremely helpful in taking the knowledge base I've grown from lecture to applying it to hands-on nursing skills/judgements. Having this scholarship will further enable me to pursue additional clinical training and certifications to continue my education in medicine.

“Thank you so much for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship, I am beyond honored. I am so grateful to receive this support, and I can't wait to continue furthering my nursing education as I step into the next phase of my career.”

- Stephanie Chen



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Shannon Christiano

Shannon Christiano

Academic Excellence Award - Nursing Education

Master's Student/ Nursing Education

Holbrook, NY

She/Her

This scholarship has helped me to continue my journey at Stony Brook while also working full time. Having the financial cushion that this scholarship provided I am able to focus more on school and make sure that I am getting the most out of my educational experience at Stony Brook.

Having the flexibility of hybrid courses made Stony Brook the ideal university for me. Being able to see and meet in person the students who I was working on projects with was beneficial to my learning.

I recently accepted a position as a Nurse Educator with the clinical professional development team at Mather Hospital. I will transition roles at the end of April. I am looking forward to utilizing my Masters degree to help foster the growth and development of new graduate nurses and facilitate new skills.

“Thank you so much for selecting me for this scholarship. The hope is with my degree I will be able to help new nurses find and pursue their passions. Furthermore, as a result of your generosity you not only have helped me but also helped the many nurses I will have the privilege of knowing and teaching throughout my career as an educator.”

- Shannon Christiano



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Sylvia Chung

Sylvia Chung

School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship

Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award

Junior / Nursing

Stony Brook, NY

She/Her

Receiving the Stony Brook School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship and the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award has significantly supported my academic and personal growth. By easing financial stress, these awards have allowed me to focus more fully on my studies, clinical preparation, and community involvement.

They have also strengthened my motivation to uphold high standards and reinforced my confidence and sense of belonging in the nursing profession. Inspired by the values of integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence upheld by Stony Brook University Hospital, I am committed to growing as a nurse, serving my community, and giving back as a future mentor.

“Thank you so much for your generous support through this scholarship. Your contribution has made a meaningful difference in my ability to continue my nursing education with focus and confidence. I am truly grateful for your belief in students like me who are working hard to serve our communities through nursing. Your generosity inspires me to keep striving for excellence and to one day give back to future students the way you have given to me.”

- Sylvia Chung



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Stony Brook Medicine

Thomas Cox

Hugh J.B. Cassidy III Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Hauppauge, NY

He/Him

This scholarship has significantly supported my academic and personal development by easing financial strain and allowing me to focus fully on my studies, clinical training, and skill development. It has also motivated me to maintain high standards, knowing others have invested in my success.

I plan to begin my nursing career in a medical-surgical unit to build a strong foundation before transitioning into critical care or the emergency department. I am drawn to fast-paced environments that require quick thinking and offer opportunities to make a meaningful impact during critical moments. My military and healthcare experiences have strengthened my ability to stay calm under pressure and work effectively in teams.

Overall, this scholarship has reinforced my confidence, resilience, and sense of purpose as a veteran entering nursing, while reducing financial burden and helping shape me into a more compassionate future nurse.

"I sincerely thank you for your generous support. This scholarship has eased financial burdens and allowed me to focus more fully on my nursing education and clinical training.

As a veteran transitioning into nursing, your support is especially meaningful and affirms my commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality care to diverse populations. I am deeply grateful and hope to one day give back by supporting others as you have supported me.

-Thomas Cox





Sheeba David

Sheeba David

Academic Excellence Award - Doctor of Philosophy

Doctoral/ Doctor of Philosophy

Setauket, NY

She/Her

This scholarship has had a significant impact on both my academic and personal development. The different courses in the curriculum, along with the exceptional faculty who engage in intellectually stimulating discussions, have gradually shaped my thought process. Beyond academics, the scholarship has enhanced my confidence and motivation.

I chose this university because of its strong academic research standing. The emphasis on bio-behavioral research closely aligned with my research interest. The opportunity to engage in scholarly activities along with access to various resources were other key factors in my decision.

I have been involved in research activities with faculty from local and international nursing institutions. I have engaged in disseminating research findings at the NYAM Fire event, ENRS conferences, URECA conference and nursing research day. Through these experiences, I have widened my perspective and developed a stronger foundation and understanding of research practices.

“Receiving this award marks an important milestone in my scholarly journey, and I am deeply humbled and grateful. I aspire to make meaningful contributions and positively impact the community through my research.”

-Sheeba David



Maria Diaz

Maria Diaz

Academic Excellence Award - Doctor Nursing Practice

Doctoral Student/ Doctor of Nursing Practice

East Islip, NY

She/Her

Beyond academics, this scholarship has reinforced my sense of purpose and belonging within the Stony Brook community. Being selected is an honor and a reminder that my work with vulnerable populations is recognized and valued, strengthening my confidence as a clinician and leader.

I currently work full-time as a Nurse Practitioner in primary care and hope to continue focusing on community-based chronic disease management for vulnerable populations. I am especially excited to combine clinical practice, leadership, and community engagement to create sustainable change by both treating illness and advocating for stronger care systems.

"I sincerely thank you for your generous support. Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a meaningful affirmation of my work at Stony Brook University.

Your contribution is an investment in the communities I serve. I am passionate about managing chronic disease in vulnerable populations, and this support strengthens my ability to continue this work with greater knowledge, leadership, and confidence. Its impact will be reflected in the care I provide and the health outcomes I strive to improve.

Thank you for believing in students like me and for supporting advanced nursing education. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to the future of healthcare."

-Maria Diaz



Sophia Doriazo

Sophia Doriazo

Ellen Weisenberg Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Master's Student/ Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Hauppauge, NY

She/Her

Academically, this support has enabled me to fully engage in my Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program at Stony Brook University. I am able to dedicate the time and energy necessary to mastering complex clinical concepts, preparing for advanced practice, and pursuing opportunities that enhance my learning. It has allowed me to be more present, intentional, and driven in my education. Being selected as a recipient is incredibly affirming and has reinforced my commitment to the nursing profession and to the patients and families I serve. It motivates me to continue striving for excellence, not only as a clinician but also as an advocate and future leader in pediatric healthcare.

Overall, this scholarship has provided me with both the resources and the confidence to grow academically, professionally, and personally. It has strengthened my ability to pursue my goals with purpose and has inspired me to give back to the nursing community in impactful and meaningful ways.

“I am currently pursuing my graduate degree at Stony Brook University to become a Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner while working as a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit nurse. Because of your support, I am able to focus more fully on my education and clinical training as a future provider without the constant stress of this financial burden. That peace of mind is something I don't take for granted.”

-Sophia Doriazo



Sarah Duke-Sloan

Sarah Duke-Sloan

Margaret Hoffman Scholarship in Nursing

Junion/ Nursing

Centerport, NY

She/Her

I hope to pursue a career in critical care nursing, caring for patients in their most vulnerable and complex moments. Growing up with multiple relatives affected by terminal cancer shaped my understanding of healthcare, and showed me the profound impact skilled, compassionate nurses have on both patients and families. Those experiences drive my commitment to providing thoughtful, patient-centered, and culturally sensitive care during the most critical times. What excites me most is applying the clinical knowledge I'm gaining in nursing school to think critically, collaborate with a team, and deliver exceptional care in high-acuity settings.

My favorite courses at Stony Brook have been Pathophysiology and Pharmacology. I am enthusiastic about how the body responds to disease and medications, and how this knowledge will allow me to think critically, collaborate with providers, and improve patient outcomes as a future nurse.

"I am deeply grateful for this honor, which has been both emotional and affirming of my path in nursing."

Growing up, I experienced the loss of multiple loved ones to terminal cancer, which shaped my understanding of healthcare and the vital role of compassionate nurses during life's most vulnerable moments. This scholarship has given deeper meaning to those experiences and reinforced my commitment to making a difference in patient care.

It has also eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus more fully on my education and clinical training. I am truly honored to receive this award and carry it forward with gratitude and responsibility."

-Sarah Duke-Sloan



Stony Brook Medicine

Matthew Esposito

George E. Xippolitos Memorial Award for Doctoral Education in Nursing Research

Doctoral Student/ Doctor of Nursing Practice

Newburgh, NY

He/Him

I chose Stony Brook due to the wonderful support provided by the community and the high-quality education I received both as a former Master's student and current DNP student.

I am currently on my current career path as a Family Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care. It is extremely rewarding as I collaborate with my patients to meet their goals and give them holistic care to treat their physical, mental, and emotional health.

Stony Brook has been influential in helping me to push me out of my comfort zone, pushing me to new heights throughout my education. I have been able to collaborate with faculty on my DNP project, learning how to disseminate new knowledge and the various methods it takes to improve the healthcare system. This scholarship helps me to ease the financial burden it will take to continue pursuing my education while providing financial assistance to publish my integrative review.

"I am so thankful for this scholarship. It truly was a surprise and has come at a crucial time for my family and me. My wife had recently been laid off and the financial assistance this will provide is substantial and I cannot be more thankful for this opportunity."

-Matthew Esposito



Lauren Friedrich

Lauren Friedrich

Ora James Bouey Scholarship

Senior / Nursing

East Northport, NY

She/Her

Receiving this scholarship has been a meaningful part of my personal and professional growth as a nurse, allowing me to focus more fully on my education and less on financial stress. Being awarded this scholarship has served as a reminder that others believe in my potential, motivating me to hold myself to a higher standard and pursue excellence in everything I do.

Serving as President of Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association (SBSNA) has been a defining part of my personal growth. In this role, I've learned how to lead with both accountability and empathy. I have strengthened my leadership and organizational skills and deepened my understanding of what it means to serve others selflessly. SBSNA has shaped me into a more capable individual, preparing me to become a leader in the field.

“Receiving this scholarship is a profound honor. I am able to dedicate greater time and energy to developing my clinical skills, strengthening my academic performance and actively engaging in leadership and service opportunities. This scholarship serves as a meaningful reminder to have confidence in my potential. Your generosity has reinforced my commitment to becoming a compassionate and dedicated nurse. Thank you for your belief in me and my ability to make a lasting impact on the future of nursing.”

-Lauren Friedrich



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Stony Brook Medicine

Eric Goyzueta

Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award

Junior/ Nursing

Westbury, NY

He/Him

This scholarship not only helped with the cost of some of my books, but it is very encouraging. I feel as though my hard work does not go unnoticed and it motivates me to apply myself to the best of my ability.

I hope I follow a path that involves infinite learning. I'm not exactly sure what unit I would like to be a nurse in, but I am confident that I want to continue my education as much as I can.

My favorite academic experience I have had at Stony Brook was my clinical experience in the School of Nursing. I have learned so much by going beyond the classroom and stepping into hospital units. It allowed me to apply what I learned while helping real people.

“Thank you very much for contributing to a worthy cause. Your donation is greatly appreciated, and I will maintain the respect that this honor holds.”

-Eric Goyzueta



Stony Brook Medicine



Breanna Guider

Breanna Guider

Barbara Mills Scholarship in Nursing

Junior / Nursing

Holtsville, NY

She/Her

I am beyond grateful to receive the Barbara Mills Scholarship, which has positively impacted both my academic and personal growth as a nursing student. It has helped relieve some of the financial stress in pursuing a nursing career while allowing me to focus more on my classes and clinical training.

Following the loss of my husband, the decision to return to school has been one of the most difficult yet meaningful transitions in my life. Balancing work while pursuing my nursing education has been challenging but your assistance has helped ease that burden.

“Your support reminds me that I am not alone on this journey. Thank you for believing in students like me and for helping turn our dreams into reality. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to continue my education and work toward a career where I can care for others during the most difficult moments in their lives.”

This scholarship has strengthened my confidence and encouraged me to continue striving toward my goal of making a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and their families.”

-Breanna Guider



Stony Brook Medicine

Laura Hofrichter

Academic Excellence Award - Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Master's Student/ Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

East Islip, NY

She/Her

This past year has been especially challenging for my family and me, and receiving this scholarship has meant more than I can fully put into words. This recognition not only validates the hard work and dedication I have put into my education, but it also provides meaningful financial support that helps ease a significant amount of stress during an already difficult time.

My desired career path is to specialize in oncology, a field that has become deeply meaningful to me on both a personal and professional level. Seven years ago, my father was diagnosed with colorectal cancer, an experience that profoundly shaped my perspective on patient care and the impact of compassionate, knowledgeable providers. Witnessing his journey inspired me to pursue a role where I can support patients and their families through some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

Being recognized for my hard work reinforces my commitment to excellence and motivates me to continue striving to be the best version of myself. This acknowledgment not only validates my efforts but also inspires me to set higher goals and remain dedicated to my growth as a future nurse practitioner. It encourages me to lead by example and uplift others, fostering a supportive environment where we can all succeed and reach our full potential.

"I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of someone who continues to invest in students and support our journeys, even after completing their own. Your kindness and commitment to helping learners succeed is truly inspiring, and I will carry that forward in my own career by striving to make a positive impact on others."

-Laura Hofrichter



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Alexandra Kanapes

Alexandra Kanapes

Academic Excellence Award - Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Master's Student/ Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Massapequa, NY

She/Her

While at Stony Brook, I have met students with clinical interests which differ from myself. Through conversation with these students, I have identified knowledge gaps in my clinical practice. This scholarship will help me to access literature which will aid in reducing these gaps.

Upon graduating, I hope to become a PNP-AC, working in the field of pediatric emergency medicine. I am excited to see how the knowledge and skills I acquired through the PNP-AC Program aid in my transition to becoming a nurse practitioner.

“I am incredibly appreciative and look forward to utilizing this scholarship to enhance my knowledge and become a more competent practitioner.”

-Alexandra Kanapes



Stony Brook Medicine

Nicole Kelly

Academic Excellence Award - Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Master's Student/ Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Stony Point, NY

She/Her

I appreciate the consideration and thoughtfulness behind this honorable award. I am looking forward to graduating and making a lasting positive impact on my future patients and their families.

Receiving this scholarship has allowed me to reflect on all of the hard work I have put into practice over the past 3 years. The onsite intensive learning experiences have helped shape my learning experience. I hope to work as a pediatric nurse practitioner, caring for patients with chronic hematologic and/or oncologic conditions.

"I cannot begin to express my sincere gratitude for your generous support. This award has a substantial impact on my education, as I continue to develop skills in the Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program that allow me to provide quality, evidence-based care to patients and their families. Your generosity eases financial aspects of my continuing education and allows me to further focus on my commitment to the pediatric population."

-Nicole Kelly



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Elizabeth Kornahrens

Elizabeth Kornahrens

Matt Silverstone Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Islip, NY

She/Her

Receiving this scholarship is very meaningful to me. Academically, it motivates me to continue working hard and growing as a nursing student. Beyond that, it reinforces the importance of giving back, whether through my involvement in Sigma Delta Tau or in my future role as a nurse. This recognition encourages me to continue being thoughtful, compassionate, and dedicated in everything I do.

My favorite course at Stony Brook has been Pathophysiology. As a nursing major, understanding disease processes is essential for providing effective patient care, and this course really strengthened that foundation. Although it was challenging, it pushed me in a motivating and rewarding way. The professor, Dr. Faulkner, encouraged critical thinking and helped connect the material to real patient scenarios, which made the experience even more meaningful.

Being involved in Sigma Delta Tau has been a defining part of my time at Stony Brook. Joining as a freshman gave me an immediate sense of community and support, and as a senior, I have continued to stay involved and give back. Through SDT, I've had meaningful opportunities to participate in philanthropy, especially with the B+ Foundation. These experiences have helped me grow in leadership, confidence, and connection with others.

“Thank you for your generous support. This scholarship is truly meaningful to me, and I am grateful for the encouragement it provides as I continue to grow into a compassionate and knowledgeable nurse. Your generosity not only supports my education but also inspires me to give back to others in my future career.”

-Elizabeth Kornahrens



Stony Brook Medicine

Hailey Lee

Hugh J.B. Cassidy III Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Queens, NY

She/Her

I was drawn to Stony Brook for the strength of its faculty, many of whom are actively engaged in research and clinical practice. Learning from professors who bring real-world, evidence-based experience into the classroom has been invaluable, especially in developing critical thinking and clinical judgment. I plan to begin my career in the emergency department or critical care, where I can work in a fast-paced environment, think critically, and make a meaningful impact during urgent situations.

This scholarship has significantly supported both my academic and personal growth. It has eased financial pressure, allowing me to focus on my studies and fully engage in clinical experiences, including rotations in the SICU, emergency department, and maternal health. At the same time, it has strengthened my sense of responsibility and purpose as I balance nursing school with service in the Army Reserve, motivating me to stay disciplined, manage my time effectively, and continue striving for excellence.

"I sincerely thank you for your generous support. This scholarship has made a meaningful impact on my academic journey and personal growth by easing financial pressure and allowing me to fully focus on my studies and clinical training. As a nursing student at Stony Brook University and a member of the Army Reserve, I balance many responsibilities. Your support has helped me remain committed, disciplined, and fully engaged, particularly during clinical experiences in the SICU and emergency department.

More than financial assistance, this scholarship is a reminder that someone believes in my potential. That encouragement motivates me to continue working hard and to give back through compassionate patient care in the future.

-Hailey Lee





Stony Brook Medicine

Rhoda Leone

Marie Frey Memorial Award

Master's Student/ Nurse Midwifery

Toronto, Ontario

She/Her

I am deeply committed to a lifelong career in midwifery and am incredibly grateful for the mentorship I have received from the School of Nursing. From the very first day, the leadership and instructors have been steadfast in supporting my journey toward completion. While the road has been challenging, their belief in me has made all the difference, and I am eager to embrace the opportunities ahead.

As a distance learner, I've truly enjoyed my visits to Stony Brook. Whether it's staying at the campus Hilton, walking the grounds, or exploring the surrounding area, each trip has been a highlight of my experience.

This scholarship will be instrumental in my preparation for professional practice, ensuring a seamless integration into clinical care. The transition from an academic setting to community-based practice is delicate; these funds would provide the stability I need to navigate this shift successfully and focus entirely on my role as a provider.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for making this resource possible. As a non-traditional student, this support is incredibly impactful and provides the stability I need to focus on my studies. I am honored by this opportunity and am committed to being an exemplary representative of this scholarship."

-Rhoda Leone



Stony Brook Medicine

Alexandra Livernoche

Academic Excellence Award - Family Nurse Practitioner

Master's Student/ Family Nurse Practitioner

Stony Brook, NY

She/Her

Receiving this scholarship has been especially meaningful during a period of significant personal and academic growth. While completing this program, I balanced full-time work alongside major life milestones, including marriage, major surgery, becoming a parent, and managing my infant's unexpected medical needs. These experiences have strengthened my resilience, reinforced my confidence, and affirmed my ability to persevere through challenges. Being recognized during such a demanding time has been both validating and motivating.

Throughout my nursing career, I have been drawn to leadership and developed a strong interest in quality and safety. I recently transitioned into a Quality and Safety Specialist role with the Sala Institute at NYU Langone's Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, where I support initiatives that advance nursing practice and family-centered care. My long-term goal is to integrate advanced practice nursing with systems-level work to improve quality, safety, and the patient and family experience. As a new parent navigating my infant's medical needs, I feel a deeper connection to this work and am motivated to drive meaningful, patient-centered change.

"Thank you so much for your generosity and recognition. This scholarship came at a time when I've been balancing a lot: graduate school, full-time work, and becoming a new parent. It truly means more to me than I can fully express. It feels incredibly validating to have my hard work recognized during such a demanding and meaningful chapter of my life. Your support motivates me to keep pushing forward and to use my education to make a real difference for patients and families."

-Alexandra Livernoche





Anna Marie Lopez

Anna Marie Lopez

Academic Excellence Award - Nursing Leadership

Master's Student/ Nursing Leadership

Brookhaven, NY

She/Her

I sought an inclusive, well-recognized research university dedicated to excellence and innovation. Joining the Stony Brook University community has not only affirmed that goal but has also instilled in me a lasting sense of hope and pride.

I aspire to pursue a leadership role in my career. I am confident that the knowledge and skills I gained from the program have prepared me to become an effective leader capable of achieving organizational goals. I am excited about the possibilities this path offers for my personal and professional growth and for the opportunity to support others in reaching their own professional success.

“I am truly honored to receive this scholarship, and I remain committed to using my skills and leadership to positively impact our healthcare community.”

-Anna Marie Lopez



Yun Ying Lu

Yun Ying Lu

Yvonne Corinne Headley-Harmon Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Brooklyn, NY

She/Her

It is a true honor to receive this scholarship, especially at a time when the financial demands of being a student can be so challenging. This award feels like a meaningful investment in my future, providing the stability I need to remain focused on my clinical growth and the nurse I am becoming. Beyond the classroom, I am deeply grateful for this recognition, as it affirms the dedication and heart I have poured into both my education and my community. This support gives me the confidence to continue pushing myself as I enter the nursing profession, where I am committed to delivering the highest standard of patient care.

The best part of being at Stony Brook has been the opportunity to learn directly at our own teaching hospital. Having a resource like Stony Brook University Hospital right on campus opened up so many doors. It's one thing to learn through lectures and textbooks, but it's a completely different experience when you're at the bedside seeing it happen through these clinical experience opportunities.

What made that experience even better was the fact that the professors in the School of Nursing genuinely care about us. They don't just lecture; they invest their time in making sure we are ready for the realities of the job. That support made a huge difference in our learning experiences. Having those resources and that kind of mentorship is what made my time here so valuable.

"This scholarship has made a meaningful difference in my education and has allowed me to focus on becoming the best nurse I can be. I am truly grateful for your belief in me and hope to one day give back to others in the same way."

-Yun Ying Lu



Stony Brook Medicine

Rebecca Marcus

Diane Ducey Hitchings-Tiernan '72 RN Baccalaureate Endowed Scholarship

Junior / Nursing

Hauppauge, NY

She/Her

This scholarship has contributed to my personal development because it allows me to worry less about picking up overtime to pay for tuition, which gives me more time to dedicate to my studies.

My prior career as an NYPD Sergeant has molded me into the strong-willed, persevering person I am today. I have been a member of the Hauppauge Fire Department since 2001. This has also provided me with valuable training and hands on skills when it comes to dealing with emergencies-being an EMT and providing emergency care in the field has been pivotal in preparing me for my second career as a nurse.

I chose Stony Brook University because the staff at Stony Brook University Hospital saved my life as a child. I always wanted to be able to give back to others in need and provide care for the most fragile patients, just like they provided to me.

“Thank you so very much for this amazing opportunity, I am so very grateful to have been chosen as this scholarship recipient. As a new nurse, I do not have to stress myself out about picking up extra shifts to pay for school as you have significantly lightened my financial burden.”

-Rebecca Marcus



Stony Brook Medicine

Brianna Masselink

Jim Stelling Family Endowed Scholarship in Nursing

Junior/ Nursing

Holbrook, NY

She/Her

I hope to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner with a focus in pediatrics. Serving as the SBNSNA class representative for my cohort has been a meaningful leadership experience, and this scholarship has made it possible for me to be more fully engaged in that role. By easing financial pressures and allowing me to take time off work, it has enabled me to focus more on my academics while actively participating in the organization, creating greater opportunities for growth and success.

“I am beyond thankful for this scholarship. It has helped me tremendously in my academia and further my participation in the SBNSNA organization that I am proudly a part of. I have worked very hard to get to where I am today, and this scholarship has helped me attain further goals I didn’t think were possible. Thank you very much for this achievement. I am forever grateful.”

-Brianna Masselink



Thomas Musto

Thomas Musto

School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship

Master's Student/ Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

East Rockaway, NY

He/Him

Receiving the Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship has been both an honor and a source of motivation in my academic journey. The scholarship has helped support my continued education while reinforcing my commitment to academic excellence and professional growth.

Beyond the financial support, this recognition has encouraged me to continue striving for leadership and service within the nursing profession. It reminds me that the nursing community values dedication, compassion, and a commitment to improving patient care. This encouragement strengthens my resolve to mentor future nurses and contribute to initiatives that improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare.

I am currently pursuing the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) track and hope to build a career in outpatient psychiatry. My goal is to provide compassionate, evidence-based care to individuals experiencing mental health conditions while helping reduce the stigma that often surrounds psychiatric treatment.

"I am truly honored and grateful for your support of my education and professional development. As I continue my journey in psychiatric nursing and work toward becoming a psychiatric nurse practitioner, this scholarship serves as both encouragement and motivation to continue striving for excellence in patient care and leadership.

Thank you again for your support and for investing in the future of nursing and my professional development."

-Thomas Musto



Amber Neria

Amber Neria

Kim Mehmood Scholarship

Junior / Nursing

Brooklyn, NY

She/Her

When I first started at the School of Nursing, I was not entirely sure of where I wanted to be. My position as a float pool nursing assistant allowed me to train in pediatrics. I have always loved working with children and during my training, I truly felt that I found my calling. The Kim Mehmood Scholarship stood out to me as it called for a student interested in the pediatric field. As I researched, I was inspired by Kim Mehmood's nursing journey in NICU/PICU. She had a remarkable impact on the Stony Brook Community, and I am so honored to receive this scholarship. Not only does it relieve my financial burden, but one day I hope to make as great of an impact in the world of pediatric nursing as Kim Mehmood.

"Thank you for this incredible opportunity. I am forever grateful for the Mehmood family for supporting me in my nursing journey. I hope that I can make you all proud as a future pediatric nurse."

-Amber Neria



Anna Olivero

Anna Olivero

Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship

Master's Student/ Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Lindenhurst, NY

She/Her

Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a meaningful affirmation of my efforts. It represents recognition from respected professionals who have chosen to invest in my development, inspiring me to keep striving for excellence.

The financial support has directly affected my academic experience by allowing me to cut back on work hours during a crucial part of my training. This has given me the time and focus needed to fully participate in my coursework and clinical preparation, ultimately enhancing my growth as a future Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

As an immigrant with a non-English first language, I initially struggled with presenting during rounds. The pressure to clearly explain my clinical reasoning made me face my confidence and communication challenges. However, by staying persistent, preparing thoroughly, and welcoming feedback, I learned ways to enhance my public speaking and interact more successfully with the interdisciplinary team. These experiences have boosted both my clinical confidence and my ability to communicate effectively.

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and for selecting me as a recipient of this scholarship. More than the financial assistance, this scholarship represents encouragement and recognition of the effort and sacrifices I have made.

I am especially grateful to have received this support for a second time. Your continued generosity touches my heart and inspires me to keep striving, not only for my success, but to one day give back and make a difference in the lives of others, just as you have done for me."

-Anna Olivero



Delaney Ortiz

Delaney Ortiz

Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean's Choice Award

Senior / Nursing

Stony Brook, NY

She/Her

The most impactful academic experience during my time at Stony Brook was my Summer Externship at Stony Brook University Hospital, where I worked as a student nurse extern in the Surgical/Trauma ICU. Collaborating with experienced nurses and leaders at a Level 1 trauma center, and with the support of my preceptor and the SICU team, I developed strong clinical skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of critical care nursing.

Beyond academics, my involvement in the Pre-Nursing Society (PNS) has had the greatest influence on my personal growth. Since my first semester in Fall 2022, I have been an active member, engaging in professional development opportunities and building meaningful connections that have supported me throughout my journey.

This scholarship has made it possible for me to fully engage in both experiences by easing financial stress and allowing me to focus on academic excellence, leadership, and campus involvement. As a result, I have been able to immerse myself in the opportunities and relationships that have shaped my time at Stony Brook.

"I am honored to have been selected as this year's recipient of the Alumni Association's Dean's Choice Award. Among a graduating class of exceptional, compassionate, and dedicated student nurses, I recognize that this distinction is especially meaningful. With great admiration and respect, I sincerely thank you for your generosity and support. Your investment in my education inspires me to continue developing my leadership, compassion, and professional identity as a soon-to-be graduate of the School of Nursing."

-Delaney Ortiz



Jennifer Patel

Jennifer Patel

Gene E. Mundie Endowed Scholarship for Doctoral Study/ Sigma Award in Recognition for Doretta Dick

Doctoral Student/ Doctor of Philosophy

Stony Brook, NY

She/Her

Choosing Stony Brook for my doctoral education was an easy decision. As both a faculty member in the School of Nursing and a graduate of the program, I have experienced its strong mentorship, rigorous curriculum, and integration with a leading academic health center.

My research focuses on food allergies, where I aim to translate lived experience into meaningful change. As a parent of a child with food allergies, I have witnessed the challenges families face, strengthening my commitment to generating evidence that improves policy and quality of life.

This scholarship will support my dissemination of research at regional and national conferences and advance my ongoing scholarly development.

***“I am sincerely grateful for your generous support of my doctoral studies in nursing. It is an honor to receive this scholarship as I continue my research in food allergies and psychosocial outcomes.*”**

***Your support allows me to focus on my training and research, contributing to improved patient care and addressing key gaps in nursing knowledge. I appreciate your investment in students like me and your commitment to future nurse scientists.*”**

Thank you again for your kindness and support. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and paying it forward through my work in the field.”

-Jennifer Patel



Bethany Perez

Bethany Perez

Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship

Master's Student/ Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Valley Stream, NY

She/Her

As a full-time night shift nurse, receiving this scholarship has supported both my academic and personal development by allowing me to focus more on my classes and clinical experiences. It has helped reduce some of the financial burden of pursuing a graduate education and helps me dedicate more time to my coursework, clinicals, and evidence-based research projects. Beyond academics, this scholarship has strengthened my confidence and overall commitment to the infants that I care for.

My colleague and I are currently working on an evidence-based project aimed at improving outcomes for babies born at 22-24 weeks. We hope to present it at the Florida Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners Conference this summer.

“Thank you for your support. I am so grateful to be a recipient of this scholarship. As a graduate student preparing to become a neonatal nurse practitioner, this scholarship helps me focus on my education and clinical training, while caring for critical infants in the NICU. I am truly grateful for your investment in my future and for my future patients.”

-Bethany Perez



Stony Brook Medicine

Quinn Rasul

Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Yonkers, NY

She/Her

I have been at Stony Brook for five years and have greatly valued my time here. The campus offers many opportunities for growth and leadership, and I have served as a resident assistant, president of the belly dance team, and a general chemistry lab teaching assistant. These roles helped me step outside my comfort zone, build leadership skills, and connect with others. I have also been involved in the Student Nurses' Association, which has provided valuable networking, volunteer, and career exploration opportunities.

One of my favorite courses was Psychosocial Mental Health Nursing, which aligned with my background in biology and psychology. I especially valued the clinical experiences, particularly in psychiatric settings, which led to an immersion in child psychiatry at Stony Brook.

I chose nursing for the meaningful patient relationships it offers and plan to pursue critical care nursing after graduation. I have been inspired by the complexity of care in this setting and the central role nurses play. Ultimately, I hope to continue my education and pursue a doctorate.

"Thank you so much for this scholarship! It has truly helped me on my journey to becoming a nurse, and I am very grateful for the opportunities I have been provided."

-Quinn Rasul



Anna Ritter

Anna Ritter

Mary G. Bourguignon Memorial Scholarship

Master's Student/ Nurse Midwifery

Auburn, NY

She/Her

I chose Stony Brook University because of the flexibility of the program. I felt the need to complete my studies at an institution that supported me throughout my degree, and it has.

As an adult learner completing an advanced degree, my life does not slow down. This scholarship inspires me to push through the challenges and obstacles that accompany being a student. I feel honored and supported by this institution.

I am excited to be studying midwifery, and I plan to pursue a career in this field.

“From the bottom of my heart, I am deeply grateful for the generosity, support and encouragement I feel by receiving this scholarship. Thank you for your kindness. You truly are lifting barriers to education.”

-Anna Ritter



Stony Brook Medicine



Tenzin Sherpa

Tenzin Sherpa

Frances Bisignano Scholarship

Senior / Nursing

Astoria, NY

She/Her

Scholarships like this are essential in helping students pursue opportunities beyond the classroom by easing financial burdens outside of tuition. With this support, I have been able to focus more fully on meaningful experiences that prepare me for my future career.

As a nursing student, I have pursued clinical experiences at Stony Brook University Hospital and Memorial Sloan Kettering, which have strengthened my commitment to compassionate, high-quality patient care. These opportunities have also helped shape my interests in pediatric and OR nursing, both of which I am excited to explore after graduation as I begin my career and develop my clinical skills as an RN.

While these experiences have been invaluable, they also come with additional costs beyond tuition, making scholarship support especially impactful.

“Receiving this scholarship is not only a financial relief, but also motivation and encouragement for my dedication to academic excellence. It reminds me that there are people who believe in my potential and are invested in my success. I am truly honored and inspired to continue working hard and giving back to others in the future!”

Thank you so much again for your generosity and for supporting students like me!”

-Tenzin Sherpa



Stony Brook Medicine



Victor Siu

Victor Siu

Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Flushing, NY

He/Him

Someone who significantly influenced my time at Stony Brook would be my Lab Professor for HAN 200 & 202. Donna Crapanzano was very helpful in finding my path and always helped me throughout my journey. She was an excellent mentor and an excellent guide.

I have been involved in Men In Nursing as its president for the last year and I have grown so much from this role both professionally and as a person. Learning to lead and be more comfortable in difficult situations has been a great experience that I would not give up.

I have always been interested in working in the OR post-grad. The role that OR nurses have and the unlimited growth opportunities were appealing. This scholarship helps me pursue my dreams and helps me structure my career path in the future.

“I would like to extend my best thanks for choosing me as the recipient for this scholarship. I have been interested in perioperative nursing for a long time prior to nursing school and am very grateful for this opportunity. I am excited that you have recognized my efforts. I thank you for allowing me to be recognized by the wonderful people at the SON and you.”

-Victor Siu



Audrey Steinbrecher

Audrey Steinbrecher

Academic Excellence Award - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Master's Student/ Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Brooklyn, NY

She/Her

Receiving the academic excellence scholarship has reinforced my confidence in my abilities and validated the effort I have invested in my education. It has motivated me to continue striving for excellence, not only academically, but also in my clinical practice and leadership development. Beyond academics, this recognition has strengthened my commitment to making a meaningful impact in neonatal care and contributing to positive change within my field.

This scholarship not only provides financial assistance but also serves as a meaningful reminder that my hard work and dedication are recognized and valued.

“Your generosity supports more than just my academic journey, it strengthens my ability to grow as a clinician, educator, and future leader in the NICU. I am committed to using this opportunity to make a positive impact on the patients and families I serve.”

-Audrey Steinbrecher



Rafia Tasnim

Rafia Tasnim

Yvonne Corinne Headley-Harmon Memorial Award

Junior / Nursing

Hudson, NY

She/Her

Stony Brook's campus community has been central to my college experience, surrounding me with peers and mentors who inspire me to grow, lead, and give back. This supportive environment has encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and become more involved both academically and within the community.

This scholarship has allowed me to engage more fully by easing financial pressures and giving me greater capacity to focus on my academic goals, leadership roles, and service. It represents not only financial support but also an investment in my potential, motivating me to continue making the most of every opportunity and to give back to the community that has supported me.

Nursing is more than a career to me; it is a calling rooted in compassion, resilience, and a desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

"Your support eases an often-unseen burden and allows me to focus more fully on my education, clinical experiences, and becoming a nurse who leads with empathy and intentional care."

This scholarship gives me a renewed sense of purpose and motivation, reminding me that my work matters and that I will one day be able to give back with the same generosity and compassion shown to me.

I carry your kindness with me throughout my journey and hope to honor it through the care I provide and the impact I make."

-Rafia Tasnim



Dennys Torres

Dennys Torres

Kappa Gamma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Scholarship

Master's Student/ Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Farmingville, NY

He/Him

Growing up, my family relied on affordable healthcare, which gave me a deep appreciation for providers who serve underserved communities. This experience inspired me to pursue a career as an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, where I can help improve access to preventative care and support patients in the same way my family was once supported.

I am drawn to primary care for the opportunity to build long-term relationships with patients and focus on prevention, education, and early intervention to improve overall quality of life.

Pursuing my graduate education has required personal and financial sacrifices, including transitioning to part-time work to focus on my studies and clinical training. While this has added financial strain, this scholarship has helped ease that burden and allows me to remain fully committed to my education and professional development.

"I would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity and support of my education through this scholarship. I am currently pursuing my Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner degree at Stony Brook University, and receiving this scholarship means a great deal to me. Graduate school requires a significant commitment of time, energy, and financial resources, and your support helps ease that burden. It allows me to stay focused on my education and clinical training while also giving me the ability to spend more meaningful time with my family as I work toward completing my program."

-Dennys Torres



Anna Weis

Anna Weis

School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship- DNP

Doctoral Student/ Doctor of Nursing Practice

Merrick, NY

She/Her

It is an honor to be recognized as an alumna with this award. I completed my Master's degree at Stony Brook University and had an excellent experience.

I am deeply passionate about my current role as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Stony Brook. Pursuing my doctorate will further advance my career and allow me to contribute to educating future graduate nursing students.

“Thank you for your generous support through the alumni scholarship for my doctoral program. I am truly grateful to be recognized in this way, and your investment in my education means more than I can fully express.

Continuing to grow in the nursing field and provide care to others is one of my greatest honors. Your support not only helps me advance my education but also strengthens my ability to make a meaningful impact in the lives of my patients and community.

Thank you again for your generosity and for believing in my journey.”

-Anna Weis



Steven Yang

Steven Yang

Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award

Senior / Nursing

Albany, NY

He/Him

One of the most meaningful aspects of my experience at Stony Brook has been the opportunity to connect with exceptional faculty and healthcare professionals whose mentorship guided my development and helped shape my interest in critical care nursing. I am also grateful for the opportunity to give back by mentoring pre-nursing students. This scholarship represents meaningful recognition of my efforts and will support my transition into professional practice as I pursue a career in the ICU.

My career goals include working as an ICU nurse and ultimately pursuing CRNA school. I am drawn to critical care for its intellectual rigor, clinical complexity, and the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with patients and families during vulnerable periods. My clinical experiences in the Neurocritical Care Unit and Medical ICU strengthened my critical thinking and exposure to complex patient management, particularly the titration of vasoactive medications in hemodynamically unstable patients. Ultimately, I aspire to become a Nurse Anesthetist, building on this foundation to achieve advanced expertise and clinical autonomy.

“I am deeply honored to be the recipient of this scholarship and sincerely grateful for your generosity. Your support is a meaningful recognition of the hard work and dedication I have invested in my nursing education, and it motivates me to continue learning as I transition into professional practice. I hope to honor your generosity through the care I provide to my patients and the contributions I make to the nursing profession. Thank you sincerely for making a difference in my journey.”

-Steven Yang



Stony Brook
School of Nursing



Erin Zazzera

Erin Zazzera

Davis Family Nursing PhD Endowed Scholarship

Doctoral Student/ Doctor of Philosophy

Stony Brook, NY

She/Her

I am currently in the proposal phase of my PhD dissertation, using geospatial mapping to examine hotspots of pediatric pedestrians and bicyclists struck by motor vehicles in Suffolk County. My goal is to identify patterns and neighborhood risk factors to improve roadway safety for children and adolescents. With a background in the emergency department and as pediatric trauma coordinator at Stony Brook Hospital, injury prevention and trauma care remain central to my work.

I have worked at Stony Brook Medicine for nearly 25 years and value being part of an academic environment that supports both learning and teaching. I have benefited from research conferences, workshops, and collaborations that have strengthened my scholarly development. The PhD faculty have been outstanding mentors throughout this process.

This scholarship will allow me to reduce my workload while I complete my studies. I currently work full time and hold two additional per diem positions to support my family. Following the loss of my husband three years ago after a long battle with cancer—who also worked at Stony Brook Hospital for nearly 30 years—this support is especially meaningful. Stony Brook has been a central part of our lives, and I am deeply grateful for this community.

“I am sincerely grateful for your generous support of my doctoral education. As a PhD candidate in Nursing, receiving this scholarship has significantly eased the financial burden of my studies and allows me to focus more fully on my research and academic development. I am excited to complete my dissertation and contribute to the literature on preventing injuries for children. Thank you again!”

-Erin Zazzera



Damian Zhang

Damian Zhang

Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award

Junior / Nursing

Brooklyn, NY

He/Him

This scholarship has supported my personal and academic development by increasing my confidence and motivation through recognition of my efforts. It has also eased financial burdens related to tuition, textbooks, and examinations, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies and pursue my goals with greater focus and less stress.

My brother has also played an important role in my experience at Stony Brook, serving as a mentor during my transition to college by guiding me through campus life, coursework, and extracurricular involvement. I am grateful for the support and connection we shared during our time on campus.

I hope to pursue a career in nursing providing compassionate, evidence-based care, with a particular interest in the operating room. I am drawn to OR nursing for the focused, hands-on care it allows and the opportunity to make a direct impact on individual patients.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity that the Marylou Stewart Pride Scholarship has provided for me because it will significantly ease the financial burden of my education and allow me to focus more on my academic and personal growth in the LGBTQ Community. I am inspired to continue striving for excellence and to one day give back to others in the same way. Thank you for believing in my potential and supporting me throughout my journey!"

-Damian Zhang



Stony Brook Medicine

Additional Recipients

Valeria Fuentes

Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean's Choice Award

Kristin Lynch

Academic Excellence Award - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Ashley McNally

Academic Excellence Award - Nurse Midwifery

Molly Perotta

Kim Mehmood Scholarship

Student Veterans Recognition

Undergraduate

Jaaquan Forrest

Student Veterans Recognition - Senior Airman, United States Air Force

Hailey Lee

Student Veterans Recognition - Sergeant, United States Army

Jenny Macalino

Student Veterans Recognition - Staff Sergeant, United States Army

Luke Toscano

Student Veterans Recognition - Captain, United States Air Force

Peter Velez

Student Veterans Recognition - Combat Medic, United States Army

Juyeon Yoo

Student Veterans Recognition - Sergeant, United States Army

Graduate

Brian Saltzer

Student Veterans Recognition - United States Army

Clara Scavelli

Student Veterans Recognition - United States Marine Corps





Stony Brook University School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award celebrates alumni who have demonstrated exceptional achievement, outstanding service, and significant contributions to the field of nursing. Honorees embody the values and excellence that define our university, serving as an inspiration to current students, faculty, and fellow alumni.

Truly great universities are measured by the impact and accomplishments of their graduates. Through their leadership, dedication, and commitment to advancing healthcare, they not only elevate the profession of nursing but also bring great pride to our alma mater. The Distinguished Alumni Award honors their legacy and the meaningful difference they continue to make in the world.



Carolyn Santora

Distinguished Alumni Award

Carolyn Santora is the Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Regulatory Officer at Stony Brook University Hospital. She is a graduate of St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Adelphi University, and a master's degree in Critical Care Nursing from SUNY Stony Brook. She is dually trained as a Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care and a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She has held progressive management positions at SBUH, having served as the Associate Director for Cardiac, Trauma & Emergency Services prior to taking on the position of Chief of Regulatory Affairs in 2007. She served as the Interim Chief Nursing Officer in addition to continuing as the Chief of Regulatory Affairs from October 2015 until February 2019, and then again in January of 2020. In July 2020, after leading the nursing service through the COVID pandemic, she was appointed permanently to the position of Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Regulatory Officer. She was one of the founding members of the hospital staff having entered service in 1979 as a Clinician for the first Surgical Unit. She has extensive experience directing oncology, transplant, critical care, cardiovascular and emergency services. Ms. Santora is a recognized expert in hospital throughput and emergency department overcrowding, having pioneered the "Full Capacity Protocol." She is a frequent national presenter and a published author on topics including patient safety, nursing leadership, staff engagement, and medical ethics. Her leadership has been recognized with many honors, including the Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award from the Kappa Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Carolyn passionately believes that the talents unique to the nursing profession can change the world.





Stony Brook Medicine

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students, alumni, and preceptors recognized and honored. Your dedication, achievements, and contributions are truly inspiring. We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to the families and friends whose unwavering support has played an integral role in the success of our honorees. Your encouragement and belief in them are deeply appreciated.

A special thank you to the School of Nursing Awards Committee and all of the faculty, staff, and student volunteers whose efforts and meticulous planning have made this evening a resounding success. We are profoundly grateful for your commitment to excellence and your passion for celebrating the accomplishments of our community.

Finally, thank you to our donors. Your generosity provides support to our students that make this possible.