The Awards of Excellence recognizes AWHONN members who have made a significant or outstanding contribution to the specialties of women’s health, obstetric or neonatal nursing at the local, state, national or international level in one of six areas: Advocacy, Community Service, Education, Leadership/Management, Practice and Research.

Eligibility Criteria- Nominees must be:
- Currently licensed as a registered nurse, or a retired registered nurse
- AWHONN member for at least two years prior to nomination and in the year of nomination
- Currently serving or have served previously in the award category

Attributes: Nominees are evaluated based on evidence of the following leadership qualities
- Visionary and passionate regarding AWHONN and the health promotion of women and newborns
- Modeling professional behavior
- Motivating excellence in others, encouraging opportunities for growth, change, and development
- Inspiring confidence and celebrates the success of others above one’s own
- Communicating complex ideas in a simplistic manner
- Living the message: creativity, resourcefulness, confidence, and passion
- Welcoming controversy and challenging to reset the standard

Specific Award Categories and Criteria – Nominees are evaluated on evidence of:

Advocacy
- History of individual contribution to promote women’s or newborns’ health on the federal, state or local political arenas beyond employment requirements
- Integrating AWHONN's mission and standards in their contribution to women’s or newborns’ health through advocacy efforts
- Ability to mobilize colleagues in support of a legislative or health policy issue that is reflective of AWHONN’s mission and standards
- Enhancing colleagues’ ability to influence health policy through mentoring and educational activities

Community Service
- History of individual contributions to promote women’s or newborns’ health in a community.
- Innovative application of current knowledge and research in programs or activities
- Impact on Perinatal or women’s health in the community
- Reflecting AWHONN’s mission and standards in their contribution to women’s or newborns’ health in a community

Education
- Contribution to the knowledge base of women’s or newborns’ health
- Improving the practice of professional women’s and newborns’ health nursing through teaching excellence
- Individual contribution in their area of teaching that has state or national implications such as publication in a peer-reviewed journal or speaking at a state or national meeting
- Reflecting AWHONN's goals and standards in their contribution to women’s and newborns’ health nursing education
Leadership/Management

- Improving the delivery of women’s or newborns’ health nursing care using innovative management approaches
- Contribution in their area of leadership that has state or national implications such as publication in a peer-reviewed journal or speaking at a state or national meeting
- Reflecting AWHONN's goals and standards to influence women’s and newborns’ health nursing practice
- Demonstration of leadership expertise in women’s and newborn’s healthcare delivery.
- Promoting a professional image of nursing through mentoring new leaders

Practice

- Improving the delivery of women’s or newborns’ health nursing care using innovative approaches
- Contribution in their area of practice that has state or national implications such as publication in a peer-reviewed journal or speaking at a state or national meeting; or
- Excellence in clinical practice (bedside or ambulatory care) through advocacy for patients and families and application of innovative approaches to patient care.
- Reflecting AWHONN's goals and standards to influence women’s and newborns’ health nursing practice
- Clinical expertise
- Promoting a professional image of nursing through practice

Research

- Demonstrate a history of conducting funded research that has made a significant contribution in women’s and newborns’ health nursing
- Publish research in reference journals
- Reflect AWHONN's goals and standards in their contribution to women’s and newborns’ health nursing research
- Demonstrate clinical applications in research
- Demonstrate a high level of scholarship in published work
- Promote women’s and newborns’ health nursing research within AWHONN, the nursing profession or the public
- Maintains her/his own professional development

Procedures

1. Candidates may only be nominated for one award of excellence per year in any category.
2. Nominees for Awards of Excellence must have two reference letters.
3. A committee of at least three members of AWHONN Oklahoma, appointed by the Section Chair, reviews blinded nominations and completes a judging form.
4. All decisions will be based on submitted material requested by AWHONN only.
5. Excellence Awards are presented annually at the AWHONN Oklahoma Section Conference.
Awards of Excellence Nomination Form

Category of Award (circle one): Advocacy, Community Service, Education, Leadership/Management, Practice, Research

Candidate Name: _______________________________________________________________________________

Credentials (in order Preferred): __________________________________________________________________

Home Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

City________________________________________ State/Province__________ Zip_______________________________

Phone: Day__________________ Evening________________________

Email: ____________________________

Job Title/Position_______________________________________

Candidate’s Employer_____________________________________

City_______________________ State/Province____________________

Years of AWHONN Membership_________________ (approximate if unknown)

Signature of Nominator:_____________________________ Date: _______________________

Nominator’s email Address ____________________________

Applications will only be processed and considered if they include the following:

- Completed AWHONN Nomination Form
- Two Letters of Support (one from nominator). Refer to criteria when writing letter of support and include specific examples.

Send your completed application via email to: Sectionchair@awhonnok.org by March 1, 2017.