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Long Island Nurses Recognized for Excellence

*Top Clinical Awards to NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island and Mather Hospital
Top Academic Award to Stony Brook Nursing School Professor*

HAUPPAUGE, NY (October 8, 2025) – Nurse leaders from Long Island’s hospitals and nursing education programs gathered Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at the Watermill Caterers, Smithtown, NY, to bestow



*2025 Nurse of Excellence Winners (left to right):
Denise Driscoll, RN-BC, CARN, PMHCNS-BC, NPP,
Assistant Vice President Behavioral Health,
Mather Hospital Northwell Health; Lee C.
Moldowsky MSN, RN, NEA-BC, RN-BC, CPHQ,
Director of Nursing Quality and Performance
Improvement and Magnet Program, NYU Langone
Hospital – Long Island; Giselle Gerardi, PhD, RN,
RNC-OB,C-EFM, Assistant Professor, Stony Brook
School of Nursing*

recognition upon their nurse peers at the Nurse of Excellence Award Ceremony hosted by the [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) (NSHC). One nurse from each of the Hospital Council’s member hospitals was nominated for the award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and clinical practice. Deans of area nursing schools also submitted nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education and clinical practice.

Commack resident Giselle Gerardi, PhD, RN, RNC-OB,C-EFM, Assistant Professor at [Stony Brook School of Nursing](#), took the top honor for nursing education excellence. This year, two deserving nurses took the top honor for clinical nursing excellence: **Westbury** resident Lee C. Moldowsky MSN, RN, NEA-BC, RN-BC, CPHQ, Director of Nursing Quality and Performance Improvement and Magnet Program at NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island; and **Rocky Point** resident Denise Driscoll, RN-BC, CARN, PMHCNS-BC, NPP, Assistant Vice President Behavioral Health at Mather Hospital Northwell Health.

A recognized national voice in healthcare policy, Gerardi was selected as a participant in the prestigious American Nurses Advocacy Institute (ANAI). As co-chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Social Justice (IDEAS) Committee, she has launched transformative initiatives that foster institutional change. Gerardi is also the Director-at-Large and Assembly Representative for both the American Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau’s Kappa Gamma Chapter.



Moldowsky's 30 plus years of experience is exemplified by multiple certifications, including Certified Nurse Executive-Advanced from ANCC, Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality from National Association for Healthcare Quality and Just Culture® Certified. Moldowsky is also working to shape the next generation of nurses as an adjunct clinical instructor at Stony Brook University educating undergraduate nursing students and as a coach/mentor in the Healthcare, Energy, Education, Environment, Agriculture, and Technology (HE3AT) nursing program, a cohort of 25 juniors from various South Brooklyn schools.

Driscoll has established herself as a change agent by helping to develop and implement a wide range of successful ongoing programs at her hospital, including crisis intervention programs and innovative mental health services such as a tele-mental health service, a Rapid Access Mental Health Outpatient Center, and esketamine therapy in the Outpatient Infusion Center. In 2021, Driscoll received the prestigious Advocacy Award from the American Nurses Association (ANA).

This year there were 21 nominees. Those nominees were selected from a field of about 500 nurses at hospitals and teaching institutions from across Long Island.

The Hospital Council's annual salute to nurses is fashioned after the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program that ended in 1995. NSHC is one of the few hospital associations in the state to continue this program voluntarily. The NSHC represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals.

For more information about this program and a full listing of nominees, visit www.nshc.org.

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About the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State



The [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) advocates on behalf of hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions. It engages key lawmakers and regulatory decision-makers in Albany and Washington to ensure reasonable and rational health care policy prevails.

About the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC)



The [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NSHC serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals on Long Island.

About the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)



The [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NorMet serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals in the Hudson Valley.