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## Long Island Nurses Recognized for Excellence

*Top Nursing Excellence Awards to Stony Brook University Hospital and NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island*  
*Top Academic Award to Stony Brook Nursing School Associate Dean*

HAUPPAUGE, NY (October 1, 2026) – Nurse leaders from Long Island’s hospitals and nursing education programs gathered Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at the Watermill Caterers, Smithtown, NY, to bestow 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



*2026 Nurse of Excellence Winners (left to right): Theresa Dillman, DNP, MSN, MHA, RN, NE-BC, Chair of the Nurse Excellence Subcommittee and VP/Chief Nursing Officer at Plainview Hospital and Syosset Hospital – Northwell Health; Jennifer Psinakis, BS, RN, HNB-BC, PCCN, Senior Nurse Clinician at NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island; Lisa McCarthy Clark, DNP, CPNP-AC/PC, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Stony Brook University Hospital; and Ann-Margaret Dunn Navarra, PhD, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Associate Dean, Nursing Research at Stony Brook School of Nursing.*

nursing schools also submitted nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education and clinical practice.

**Smithtown** resident Ann-Margaret Dunn Navarra, PhD, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Associate Dean, Nursing Research and Innovation at [Stony Brook School of Nursing](#), took the top honor for nursing education excellence. **Babylon** resident Lisa McCarthy Clark, DNP, CPNP-AC/PC, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at [Stony Brook University Hospital](#) received the top nursing leadership award and **Lindenhurst** resident

Jennifer Psinakis BS, RN, HNB-BC, PCCN, Senior Nurse Clinician at [NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island](#) received the award for excellence in clinical nursing.

Dr. Dunn Navarra is a nationally recognized expert in pediatric HIV care, adherence science, and health technology interventions. She has mentored dozens of doctoral, postdoctoral fellows, undergraduate researchers and junior faculty. She has authored more than 60 scholarly publications and is president of the Eastern Nursing Research Society.



Dr. McCarthy Clark has practiced in the newborn nursery for more than 30 years. She developed a care pathway for newborns who have been exposed to intrauterine substances and develop Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. She presented the topic nationally and abroad. Additionally, she has contributed to such global initiatives as Helping Babies Breathe Better program in Sudan and as a lead instructor for the STABLE neonatal resuscitation program both in the United States and Ireland.

Jennifer Psinakis is a highly skilled bedside nursing caring for a complex and diverse patient population, including thoracic and cardiovascular surgery patients and others requiring advanced monitoring and specialized care. At NYU she founded the Nurse and Patient Wellness Committee and led the creation of the Zen Den.

This year there were 23 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](http://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.