



# 2026 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## Guidelines for Nominations

To make a nomination, please send all of the following information to AABC :

- Nominee's name, degrees, address, telephone number, and email address.
- Category for which person is being nominated
- Evidence of meeting the criteria for this award (250-500 words)
- Person who is making the nomination, address, telephone number, and email address.

Complete the online nomination form at [BirthCenters.org/awards](https://BirthCenters.org/awards)

Deadline for 2026 Nominations: **AUGUST 10, 2026**

## Criteria for Awards

### PROFESSIONAL

1. Licensed practitioner or administrator in an out-of-hospital setting for 5 years and/or member of AABC for 5 years.
2. Actively supportive of birth centers as an alternative birth site option in the community.
3. Active in promoting birth centers as a cost-effective, health-oriented alternative for low-risk, healthy women/birthing people and families in areas of well-woman care, pregnancy, labor, birth, and the newborn period.
4. Has contributed to the advancement and/or establishment of birth centers in the United States.
5. Active in promoting ongoing community support of the basic philosophy of birth centers to the public (i.e. through public speaking, published articles, etc.)
6. Politically active and aware of the problems facing birth centers in the past and present. Committed to improving birth centers in the future; through continued upholding of birth centers as a safe alternative care for women/birthing people.

### COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN

1. Collaborating physician for a freestanding birth center for 5 years and/or member of AABC for 5 years.
2. Actively supportive of birth centers as an alternative birth site option in the community.
3. Active in promoting birth centers as a cost-effective, health-oriented alternative for low risk, healthy women and families in areas of well-woman care, pregnancy, labor, birth and the newborn period.

4. Has contributed to the advancement and/or establishment of birth centers in the United States.
5. Active in promoting ongoing community support of the basic philosophy of birth centers to the public (i.e. through public speaking, published articles, etc.)
6. Politically active and aware of the problems facing birth centers in the past and present. Committed to improving birth centers in the future through continued upholding of birth centers as safe alternative care for women.

## COMMUNITY

1. Supportive of the basic philosophies of birth centers regarding preventive health-oriented care for women and their infants in pregnancy, labor, birth and the newborn period.
2. Through community awareness programs and/or projects has contributed to the growth of birth centers or promotes birth centers as an alternate, cost effective health care option (i.e. - sponsoring support groups, lobbying to make legislators aware of consumer needs, talking to large groups, etc.)
3. Is a consumer of a birth center who is committed to the birth center future as the community health care option for normal, low risk women and their families.

## MEDIA

1. Supportive of basic philosophies of birth centers regarding preventive health-oriented care for women and their infants in pregnancy, labor, birth and the newborn period.
2. Accurate reporting of birth centers as an alternative safe, cost effective site for birth through excellence in newscasting, journalism, video promotion, websites, etc.
3. Active in support, through media, of alternative health care options and health care providers to promote health and wellness in the community.

## PUBLIC ADVOCATE

1. Active in sponsoring and/or supporting legislation supportive of the concept of birth centers and the basic philosophy of AABC.
2. Active in support of reimbursement from both private insurance and federal funds.
3. Supportive of preventive, health oriented, cost effective health care for all.
4. Supportive of health care alternatives and alternative health practitioners as safe, cost effective health care options for normal, low risk women and their families.

## Past Recipients of the AABC Achievement Awards

### PROFESSIONAL

1992 Sr. Angela Murdaugh, CNM  
 1993 Ruth Shiers, CNM  
 1994 Phyllis Leppert, MD  
 1995 Marion McCartney, CNM  
 1996 Edith Wonnell, CNM  
 Kitty Ernst, CNM  
 1997 Mary Lou Longeway, RN  
 Henry Maicki, MD  
 1998 Lisa Ross, CNM  
 1999 Jon Vrtiska, MD  
 2000 Susan R Stapleton, CNM  
 2001 Elizabeth Gilmore, CPM  
 2002 Ann Sober, RN  
 2003 Robert Crawford, MD  
 2004 Pat Brewer, CNM  
 2005 Sandy Williamson, CNM  
 2006 Denise Roy, CNM  
 2007 not awarded  
 2008 Roberta Frank, CNM  
 2009 Margaret Dorroh, CNM  
 2010 Kathryn Schrag, CNM  
 2011 Melanie Dossey  
 2012 Kenneth Blau, MD  
 2013 Jill Alliman, CNM  
 2014 Paula Bernini Feigal, LM, CPM  
 2015 Fran Wertman, CNM  
 2016 Maureen Darcey, CNM  
 2017 Abigail Lanin Eaves, CNM  
 2018 Norma Verdiano, MD  
 2019 Olga Ryan, RN  
 2020 not awarded  
 2021 Amy Johnson-Grass, ND, CPM  
 2022 Laura Wiegand  
 Kara Peterson, CNM  
 2023 Gazelle Lange, CNM  
 Angela Lyttle, CNM  
 2024 Desiree LeFave, CPM, LDM  
 Rebeckah Orton, RN  
 Laura Wiegand  
 2025 Julie Moon, CNM

### COLLABORATING PHYSICIAN

2005 Josh Gettinger, MD  
 2006 Elizabeth Stifel, MD  
 2007 Owen Bell, MD  
 2008 Dominic Cammarano, DO  
 2009 Henry Ramini, MD  
 2010 Stephen Guy, MD  
 2011 Menachem Miodovnik  
 2012 Shanti Mohling, MD  
 2013 Glen Elrod, MD  
 Martha Carlough, MD and the  
 UNC Dept of Family Medicine  
 2014 James Martin, MD  
 2015 Leon Schimmel, MD  
 2016 Lawrence Leeman, MD  
 Janice Anderson, MD

2017 Lisa Johnson, MD and the OB  
 Hospitalist Physicians at  
 Alaska Medical Center  
 2018 Dennis Miller, MD  
 2019 Ryan Dickerson, MD  
 George Buchanan, MD  
 2020 not awarded  
 2021 Dennis Hartung, MD  
 2022 not awarded  
 2023 Nicola Pemberton, MD  
 2024 Dele Ogunleye, MD  
 2025 Richard Thigpen, MD

### COMMUNITY

1992 Phyllis Rothschild  
 1993 Stanley Fisch, MD  
 1994 Barbara Cattermole &  
 Rosemary Frank Vitale  
 1996 Janette Schneider  
 1997 The Council for Empowering  
 Childbearing Families  
 1998 Marjorie Jordan, RN, ACCE  
 1999 Samuel Petre  
 2000 Janet Hall  
 2001 Jean Douglas Smith  
 2002 Monroe County Executive and the  
 Board of Directors of Women's  
 Wellness and Maternity Center  
 2003 not awarded  
 2004 Ann Ross  
 2005 not awarded  
 2006 Claudia Booker  
 2007 not awarded  
 2008 Marisa Page  
 2009 not awarded  
 2010 Amy Polk (in memoriam)  
 2011 Judith Treistman  
 2012 Amy Swagman  
 2013 not awarded  
 2014 Amy Saloner & Jen Aliano – Natural  
 Baby Pros  
 2015 Rebecca Romero-Rainey  
 2016 not awarded  
 2017 Tricia Balazovic  
 Megan Brown  
 2018 Jack & Sherry Youngblood  
 2019 not awarded  
 2020 not awarded  
 2021 Amber Allen  
 Krystyna Bowman  
 2022 not awarded  
 2023 not awarded  
 2024 not awarded  
 2025 Rollins Center for Language &  
 Literacy

### MEDIA

1992 Jamie Bolane  
 1993 Henci Goer  
 1994 Polly Wells  
 1995 Sarah Peasley  
 1996 Diane Mason, RN  
 1997 Cindy Richards  
 1998 Diony Young  
 1999 Cindy Loose  
 2001 Banyan Productions  
 2002 not awarded  
 2003 W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
 2004 Polly Wells  
 2005 Jennifer Fink  
 2006 Paula Wilmont  
 2007 not awarded  
 2008 Wolf Creek Media Productions  
 2009 Manic Productions  
 2010 Pat Jones, CNM  
 2011 Chad Harper  
 2012 not awarded  
 2013 not awarded  
 2014 Eugene DeClercq, PhD  
 2015 Judy Norsigian/Our Bodies Ourselves  
 2016 Michelle Munz  
 2017 Linda Cole, CNM+Melissa Avery, CNM  
 2018 Barbara Anderson, CNM  
 2019 Ian Hill/Urban Institute  
 2020 not awarded  
 2021 not awarded  
 2022 Ann Spoeerre  
 2023 Anna Claire Vollers  
 2024 Jennifer Almanza, DNP, CNM  
 2025 not awarded

### PUBLIC ADVOCATE

1992 Representative Michael O'Pake  
 1993 Governor Lawton Chiles  
 1994 Charles Mahan, MD  
 1995 Sidney Wolfe, MD and Mary Gabay  
 for Public Citizen  
 1996 Senator Lucy Killea  
 1997 Phillip Lee  
 1998 Anne Richter, CNM  
 1999 Chuck Wray  
 2000 Colleen Conway-Welch, CNM  
 2001 Barbara Levin, MD  
 2002 not awarded  
 2003 William Lubic  
 2004 Lonnie Morris, CNM  
 2005 not awarded  
 2006 not awarded  
 2007 Senator Bettye Davis  
 2008 not awarded  
 2009 Sponsors of the Birth Center  
 Medicaid Reimbursement Act:  
 Reps. Susan Davis, Lois Capps, Gus  
 Bilirakis and Rob Wittman; Senators  
 Barbara Boxer and Mark Begich

- 2010 Jill Alliman + Karen Fennell  
2011 Edwards Barham  
Susan Jenkins  
2012 James "Ed" Daughtry  
2013 Health & Medicine Policy Research  
Group  
2014 Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
2015 Kendra Wyatt  
2016 Utah Senator Deidre Henderson  
2017 Midwives Association of  
Washington State (MAWS)  
2018 Jamie Zahlaway Belsito  
2019 Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Rep. Jamie Herrera Butler  
2020 not awarded  
2021 Heather Thompson  
2022 not awarded  
2023 Representatives Amy Summers  
Heather Tully and Kathie Hess  
Crouse  
2024 Megan Warfield-Kimball  
2025 not awarded