

Deadline for submission is March 21, 2026

Now is your chance to honor a special nurse!

In celebration of National Nurses Week, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Nursing and Nurse Leaders from across our community will honor Nurse Heroes at the 2026 NightinGala, to be held **May 8, 2026, at the FedEx Event Center at Shelby Farms**

Please submit nominations for the following awards:

Bedside Nurse Hero—recognizes an individual registered nurse who has demonstrated outstanding contributions directly at the point of care and/or bedside nursing.

Advanced Practice Nurse Hero—recognizes outstanding contributions by advanced practice nurses, including those in the positions of nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialist.

Executive Leader Nurse Hero—recognizes outstanding contributions of a registered nurse in the position of leadership such as nursing director, manager, supervisor, clinical educator, case manager, nurse manager or leader.

All nomination forms must be received by no later than March 21, 2026. You may send by mail to Leigh Ann Roman, 874 Union Ave., Room 444, Memphis, TN 38163. Or, you may send the completed form by email to Leigh Ann at lroman2@uthsc.edu.

To qualify for nomination, the submission must include the following:

- Completed nomination form with the name and contact information of the nominator.
- Supporting information on the nomination form that demonstrates how the nominee's ongoing contributions made a difference.
- A Letter of Support (from someone other than the nominators)
- If possible, please attach nominee's Résumé or Curriculum Vitae.

NightinGala Nurse Hero Award 2026 Nomination Form and Criteria

Nomination Criteria:

- Nominee must have a current unrestricted Tennessee RN license or current unrestricted license in another state if employed in a federal facility.
- Actively practicing nursing in the Mid-South.

Instructions: Please read and follow instructions carefully. If instructions are not followed, the nomination will not be considered.

- Information may be typed or printed legibly.
- Consult with the nominee or others to assure that all demographic and descriptive information is accurately stated.
- The nomination form must not exceed the pages provided. Page 1 requests the nominee's demographic and biographic information and the nominator's and employer's name, address and phone number. Signatures and email addresses for both the nominator and the Senior Level Administrator of the organization MUST be provided.
- Please describe how the nominee meets the criteria.

All completed nomination forms must be received by no later than March 21, 2026. You may send by mail to Leigh Ann Roman, College of Nursing, 874 Union, Room 444, Memphis, TN 38163. Or, you may send the form by email to Leigh Ann Roman at lroman2@uthsc.edu.

The nomination form is available to download in PDF format on the UTHSC College of Nursing website <https://uthsc.edu/nightingala>.

Self-nominations are not accepted. Members of the NightinGala Nurse Hero Award Steering Committee, Nominations, and Selection committee and Reviewers are ineligible for nomination.

NightinGala Nurse Hero Award 2026 Nomination Form

All information must be typed or printed legibly on this form. Enter nominee's name and credentials as it should appear in the NightinGala Program.

Nominee's First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Nominee's Credentials: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Email: _____

Nominee's home address:

Street: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____

Nominee's Employer: _____

Organization's Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Current Position held: _____

Mark primary practice area of the nominee:

a) Bedside Nurse (Staff Nurse) _____

b) Advanced Practice Nurse _____

c) Nurse Executive Leader _____

Nominee's area of certification, if applicable: _____

Years of Experience as a Registered Nurse: _____ years.

Nominator's Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (Other) _____

E-mail address: _____

Nominator's Business Address: _____

Nominator's signature: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Senior Level Administrator's Name: (print) _____

Senior Level Administrator's Signature: _____

E-mail address: _____

Bedside Nurse Hero Nomination

This award recognizes an individual registered nurse who has demonstrated outstanding contribution directly at the point of care and/or bedside nursing.

CRITERIA:

- The nominee spends 60% or more of their time providing direct patient care.
- The nominee promotes a positive image of nursing by acting as a role model for others.
- The nominee provides care that is compassionate and respectful to patients and co-workers.
- The nominee demonstrates accountability for own professional development.
- The nominee acquires new learning and incorporates this into practice.
- The nominee demonstrates innovative and progressive ideas in nursing practice and
- The nominee demonstrates collaboration with others seeking best care of patients.

Describe how this nominee demonstrates excellence in meeting the above criteria.

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Advanced Practice Nurse Hero Nomination

This award recognizes outstanding contribution by advanced practice nurses, including those in these positions: nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, nurse midwives and clinical nurse manager or leader.

CRITERIA:

- The nominee demonstrates an expert level of competency in the delivery of care.
- The nominee demonstrates strong leadership and interpersonal skills with colleagues, those receiving care, and other members of the healthcare team.
- The nominee acquires new learning and incorporates this in the practice environment.
- The nominee promotes the image of nursing by acting as a positive role model.
- The nominee demonstrates a commitment to evidence based best practice.
- The nominee demonstrates innovative and progressive ideas in nursing practice

Describe how this nominee demonstrates a level of performance excellence meeting the above criteria.

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Executive Leader Nurse Hero Nomination

This award recognizes outstanding contributions of a registered nurse in a position of leadership such as nursing director, manager, supervisor, clinical educator, case manager, nurse manager or leaders.

CRITERIA:

- The nominee empowers registered nurses to actively participate in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating nursing care.
- The nominee promotes a culture in which registered nurses are positive, challenged and involved.
- The nominee advocates for registered nurses and nursing in the healthcare setting.
- The nominee demonstrates commitment to the development and implementation of organizational goals, priorities and strategies.
- The nominee is a positive role model for all nurses and demonstrates a commitment to evidence based best practice for all patients.

Describe how this nominee demonstrates a level of performance excellence meeting the above criteria.

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