

MARY MAHONEY AWARD



The Mary Mahoney Award, established in 1936 by the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN), has been conferred by the American Nurses Association since 1952, following the dissolution of the NACGN in 1951.

The award is named for Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first African American graduate nurse in the United States. It was established to honor her active participation in nursing organizations and her efforts to raise the status of African American nurses in professional life. The Mary Mahoney Award recognizes significant contributions, by an individual nurse or a group of nurses, to integration within the nursing profession.

The Subcommittee on the Mary Mahoney Award reviews all nominations for the award and recommends a nominee or nominees for endorsement by the Committee on Honorary Awards and approval by the ANA Board of Directors.

AWARD CRITERIA

1. The nominee or nominees must be a registered nurse or a group of registered nurses.
2. The nominee or nominees must have made a significant contribution to opening and advancing opportunities in nursing to members of minority groups.
3. The nominee or nominees must also have made a significant contribution to nursing.
4. The nominee or nominees' contribution or the impact of the contribution toward the integration, retention, and advancement of minorities in nursing and nursing in general, must be current and demonstrated.
5. The nominee or nominees' contribution must reflect that the outcome had an influence on nursing and on the advancement of intergroup relations.

MARY ELIZA MAHONEY

Mary Eliza Mahoney graduated from the Training School for Nurses, New England Hospital for Women and Children, in 1879. During her 40 years in nursing, she provided exemplary patient care and made outstanding contributions to nursing organizations. In 1909, she gave the address at the first conference of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. That association established the Mary Mahoney Award in 1936, in recognition of her example to nurses of all races. When NACGN merged with ANA in 1951, the award was continued under the auspices of the ANA.