



2016 National Awards

Luther Christman Award

To recognize the contributions that an individual man in nursing has made to the profession of nursing.

John Lowe, PhD, RN, FAAN Florida Nurses Association

Dr. John Lowe is one of only a few Native American men in the U.S. to receive a PhD in nursing and the only Native American man in nursing to be inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. He has developed a career as an accomplished educator, advocate and researcher who is focused on preventive care for Native Americans and other indigenous populations.

Dr. Lowe, a Cherokee Native American Indian, is currently the John Wymer Distinguished Professor at Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing in Davie, FL. An RN since 1981, he has practiced in a range of clinical settings, from staff nurse to lead coordinator on behavioral health care. He has represented Native American and indigenous nurses in many national and international forums, and in meetings with leaders such as former first lady, Rosalynn Carter.

Globally, Dr. Lowe has provided health care services and research consultation to underserved, disadvantaged groups around the world. Models that have emerged from his funded research are being used to promote the health and well-being of Native Americans and indigenous people in countries such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Tanzania, Costa Rica, Jamaica and China. He developed the first manualized Talking Circle intervention to reduce substance use and other risk behaviors among Native American and indigenous youth. These models in the shape of circles speak to the traditional values of being responsible, disciplined and confident, and bring together youth and adults to build and strengthen bonds, solve community problems and address health and well-being issues.

He is the principal investigator of several National Institutes of Health-funded research projects and co-authored the Native American Nursing Conceptual Framework, which is being used to guide the development of nursing curricula. He is also the founding president of the Native American Scholars Institute and has published more than three dozen articles and books. His work has been acknowledged through dozens of awards, such as the Nurse of the Year Award from the Florida Nurses Association, Top 25 Professors from the State of Florida, and Lifetime Achievement in Education and Research from the Association of Black Nursing Faculty. Dr. Lowe has built an indelible reputation in support of the nursing profession through his innovative research, teaching and advocacy.

