

2026 APP Excellence Awards-Award Categories

Award	Criteria
<p>Excellence in Clinical Practice</p> <p><i>This APP is dependable, collaborative, and consistently demonstrates preeminence in clinical judgement and practice. This APP consistently exceeds expectations in assisting patients, families, caregivers, and colleagues.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized for depth of knowledge in clinical practice and superior clinical judgment in the provision of patient care. • Has made significant contributions to improve clinical practice through quality improvement initiatives, establishing protocols, or committee work. • Serves as a role model among clinicians.
<p>Excellence in Teaching</p> <p><i>This APP is an outstanding educator to patients, learners, and/or other professionals. This APP is exemplary in their dedication to teaching and goes above and beyond. Examples include (but are not limited to): clinical education (precepting, lecturing), orienting and onboarding staff, providing CME/lecture presentations, academic presentations, guest lectures, research, and community outreach and education.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as a mentor or preceptor in official or unofficial capacity (for example: workforce development, resident education, precepting APP students, precepting medical students, etc.) • Provides excellent patient education in clinical practice. • Contributes in an additional capacity through – examples may include, but are not limited to: academic or guest/CME lectures, poster presentations, research publications, community education, community outreach.
<p>Excellence in Leadership (Formal Leader)</p> <p><i>This APP consistently and substantially exceeds expectations as a leader within the organization within their formal APP leadership role (supervisor, manager, director, chief, assistant chief, APP lead). They serve as an agent for positive change both within their division or area of practice as well as within the organization. This APP has made significant contributions to the workplace and mission of UNC Health. If nominating a manager, supervisor or team lead, please specify how they go above and beyond their designated role</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides leadership in some capacity in the organization or community within their formal APP leadership role (supervisor, manager, director, chief, assistant chief, APP lead). • Develops and implements effective change strategies within one of the following categories: clinical practice, academia, community engagement, education, or professional development. • Inspires and facilitates the work of individuals and teams to achieve highest potential.
<p>Excellence in Leadership (Informal Leader)</p> <p><i>This APP consistently and substantially exceeds expectations as a leader within the organization. They serve as an agent for positive change both within their division or area of practice as well as within the organization. This APP has made significant contributions to the workplace and mission of UNC Health. If nominating a manager, supervisor or team lead, please specify how they go above and beyond their designated role.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides leadership in some capacity in the organization or community. • Develops and implements effective change strategies within one of the following categories: clinical practice, academia, community engagement, education, or professional development. • Inspires and facilitates the work of individuals and teams to achieve highest potential.
<p>Unsung Hero</p> <p><i>This APP's contributions often go unrecognized despite their invaluable contributions, recognized by their closest colleagues. These individuals are dedicated, compassionate, collaborative, and humble. These individuals disproportionately impact their teams in a positive way.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates commitment and dedication to their clinical practice, patients, colleagues, organization, or community. • Exhibits excellent clinical acumen. • An exemplary team player.

Outstanding New Teammate

The Outstanding New Teammate award recognizes an APP who has joined UNC since June 2025 and has quickly made a significant impact through clinical excellence, engagement, and teamwork. This individual demonstrates outstanding clinical skills and a commitment to high-quality, patient-centered care. They actively engage in professional development, contribute to the healthcare team, and foster a positive, team-oriented environment by supporting colleagues and enhancing the overall success of the APP community.

- Demonstrates exceptional clinical skills, professionalism, and a strong commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.
- Proactively contributes to the healthcare team, engaging in professional development or institutional initiatives.
- Fosters a positive, team-oriented environment by supporting colleagues, enhancing teamwork, and contributing to a culture of mutual respect and growth.

Physician Partner in Excellence

A Physician Partner in Excellence is a dedicated advocate for Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), actively supporting their clinical practice, leadership development, and professional growth. They foster a collaborative environment, working alongside APPs to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care. Through mentorship and education, they empower APPs with continuous learning opportunities, ensuring they thrive as integral members of the healthcare team.

- Actively supports and champions APPs in clinical practice, leadership, and professional growth.
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to collaborating with APPs to deliver high-quality patient care.
- Provides mentorship and education to support APPs' continuous learning and career growth as valued team members.