

## CNA Presents State Level Awards

Carol OMeara

At a gala reception held during the CNA Annual Conference in February, Colorado Nurses Association presented their 2021 Awards honoring nurses for their contributions to the association and the profession.

The Emerging Leader Award, presented to a CNA Member who has been a Registered Nurse for less than 10 years and is emerging as a leader in CNA, was awarded to Jeanna Brewer. Jeanna began her leadership path as President of her Student Nurses Association. While still a student, she promoted attendance by her peers at the CNA Legislative dinner. Following graduation in 2019, she became a member of the CNA Government Affairs and Public Policy Committee. In February of 2021, she was appointed to the CNA Board of Directors as the At Large Recent Graduate Representative and successfully ran for election to the position in October 2021. She is a direct care nurse who is passionate about advocacy for her fellow nurses. CNA congratulates Jeanna Brewer on being awarded the 2021 Emerging Leader Award.

The CNA Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Laura Rosenthal. . This award is given to a CNA member who has served as a leader through service on the Board of Directors or on a committee or task force. Laura is a proven leader in practice and academia as well as a leader in the association. She has served as a CNA Board Member and as CNA Vice President and CNA President Elect. She has also served on multiple CNA Task Forces. She never hesitates to step up to assist with the work of the association. CNA was proud to honor our current President, Dr. Laura Rosenthal, with the CNA Leadership Award. Dr. Linda Stroup, CNA Past President, presented the award.

The Margie Ball Cook Award, given to a CNA Member who has advanced equal opportunities in nursing for members of minority groups was awarded to Jennifer Allen-Thomas, a nurse who is active in her profession as well as her community. She is an active member of the Colorado Council of Black Nurses, and her work will benefit not only CCBN, but also the Eastern Colorado Council of Black Nurses, the Hispanic Nurses Association, and the Philippine Nurses Association through donations to their scholarship funds. In addition, a scholarship fund for minority students has been established in her name by the Colorado Nurses Foundation. All of these scholarship funds will receive proceeds from the Nurse License Plate Project, which Jennifer spearheaded. She collected the 3000 signatures needed to move the project forward and worked with legislators and CNA to pass the required legislation. She then assisted the Colorado Nurses Foundation to continue the process to make the Nurse License Plate a reality. Her dedication to the project will not only assist minority nursing students but will also recognize all nurses in Colorado with a special license plate. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner and is the first black woman elected to the Commerce City Council. Among her duties as a councilwoman, she serves on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission. CNA was pleased to recognize Jennifer Allen-Thomas with the 2021 Margie Ball Cook Award. The Award was presented by Dr. Margie Ball Cook. Following the presentation, Robin Cook, President of the Colorado Council of Black Nurses, presented a donation to the Jennifer Allen-Thomas Scholarship Fund.

The Sara Jarrett Award for a CNA member who has contributed to nursing practice and health policy through political and legislative activity was presented to Judith Burke. A long-time member of CNA, Judith has contributed to many successful Day at the Capitol and Legislative Dinner events. She is an active member of the CNA Government Affairs and Public Policy Committee and is current co-chair of the group. Her knowledge of the legislative process, her insight into the legislative issues facing nursing, and her commitment to nursing and health care in Colorado make her a most deserving recipient of this award. Her nominator described her as an “irreplaceable asset for nurses in Colorado”. CNA is grateful for all of Judith Burke’s work on behalf of nursing in Colorado and was honored to present her with this award. Dr. Sara Jarrett presented the award.

The Carol OMeara Award is presented to a member who has made sustained contributions to CNA. The 2021 recipient, Dr. Linda Stroup, has been a leader in her DNA as well as at the state and national levels. She has served as CNA Treasurer, President Elect, President and represented CNA at the ANA Membership Assembly and the ANA Leadership Council. She provides a quiet yet effective leadership style and skillfully led the CNA Board to fully consider issues and reach consensus. A strong and capable leader, Dr. Linda Stroup is a most deserving recipient of the 2021 Sustained Leadership Award.

Congratulations to all of these very deserving award winners!