

2025 **TENNESSEE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**
AWARDS
OF EXCELLENCE



TENNESSEE
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS IS FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

2025 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Tennessee Hospital Association (THA) has issued a call for nominations for its 2025 Awards of Excellence. Each year, the association conducts an awards program to honor individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the association or one of its institutional members. Awards to be presented this year are:

- CEO of Distinction
- Small and Rural Hospital Leadership
- Senior Executive of Distinction
- Trustee of Distinction
- Nurse Leader of Distinction
- Clinical Nurse of Distinction
- Patient Safety Leadership

Presentations will be made during the annual membership meeting, scheduled from September 18 through September 19, 2025, at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, Nashville.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, April 25. All nominations must be received by email on or before this date to be considered. **All nomination materials must be submitted via email to Laila Karim at lkarim@tha.com.**

Please follow nomination guidelines in each category. It is the responsibility of the hospital/health system to make all arrangements associated with ensuring the presence of the nominee at the awards presentation. The hospital/health system that nominated the award recipient is responsible for purchasing special event tickets for the award recipient, his/her family members and other guests, travel arrangements and hotel accommodations. THA does not pay for any of these expenses for award recipients.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Please read the criteria for each award. Documentation supporting nominations becomes the property of THA.

- All nomination materials must be compiled and submitted in a single PDF document for each individual. They should be sent via email to Laila Karim at lkarim@tha.com. The file name of the PDF should include both the nominated person's name and the title of the award (for example, "John Doe - CEO of Distinction Award.pdf"). Hospitals and health systems may submit up to five nominations for the entire awards program. Do not send individual letters or other information to THA. Incomplete nominations may be deemed invalid.
- All nominations must be submitted with the signature of the nominator – do not send it without a signature.
- If a CEO is nominating an individual for an award, they must sign the nomination form for it to be valid. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available. THA reserves the right to move nominations into more appropriate categories. The awards committee reserves the right not to present an award in a category if no appropriate nominations are submitted.
- Photographs must be submitted separately via email as a .JPEG file and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name. Please submit a high resolution JPEG color photo suitable for publication.

CEO OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The CEO of Distinction Award is the highest award presented by the association. It recognizes leadership and service by an individual member to THA during his or her entire career, not for a single act or contribution. It also recognizes achievements and contributions to the healthcare industry.

Nominees must be employed as a chief executive officer by an institutional member of the association for a minimum of six years, which must be documented in the nomination (it does not have to be at the same institution). Include activities and achievements at the nominee's place of employment, professional organizations, community organizations, and service to the association (participation on THA committees, councils, etc.).

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) citing contributions, achievements, honors, etc., to THA, his/her institution and healthcare in Tennessee.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination, one of which must be from the institution's board chair. One letter may also be from an individual not employed by or directly associated with the nominee's employer. Letters may be signed and scanned if an electronic signature is not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

SMALL AND RURAL HOSPITAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Small and Rural Hospital Leadership Award recognizes leadership and service to rural healthcare in Tennessee. The recipient is an advocate for rural hospitals and a major supporter and active participant in THA.

Nominees must be employed as a rural hospital chief executive officer by an institutional member of the association for a minimum of four years, which must be documented in the nomination (it does not have to be at the same institution). Include activities and achievements at the nominee's place of employment, professional organizations, community organizations, and service to the association (participation on THA committees, councils, etc.).

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) citing contributions, achievements, honors, etc., to THA, his/her institution and healthcare in Tennessee.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination, one of which must be from the institution's board chair. One letter may also be from an individual not employed by or directly associated with the nominee's employer. Letters may be signed and scanned if an electronic signature is not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Senior Executive of Distinction Award recognizes leadership and service by individuals in support of THA member hospitals and health systems. Individuals in the c-suite are eligible for this award, including chief operating officers, assistant or associate administrators, vice presidents, chief nursing officers, chief medical officers, etc.

Nominees must be employed by a THA member hospital or health system for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution). This award recognizes individual contributions to the work of member institutions of THA or the association.

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. One letter must be signed by the institution's CEO. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

TRUSTEE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

This award recognizes active or recently retired members of the board of directors or associate/advisory board of a THA member institution. They must have served as hospital or health system trustees for a minimum of four years.

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters in support of the nomination. One letter must be signed by the institutions CEO. Other letters may be from a board member colleague and/or from an officer of member of the medical staff. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

NURSE LEADER OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Nurse Leader of Distinction Award recognizes outstanding contributions in nursing by a registered nurse employed at a THA member hospital or health system in the position of nursing director, manager, supervisor, clinical educator, case manager, nurse manager, or leader responsible for quality initiatives and improved patient outcomes. Areas of achievement to be considered include quality improvement, innovative retention and recruitment proposals, cost reduction initiatives, and leadership abilities. Please note, CNOs should be nominated in the Senior Executive of Distinction category.

Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters supporting the nomination. One letter must be signed by the institution's CEO. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if the electronic signatures are not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

CLINICAL NURSE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

The Clinical Nurse of Distinction Award recognizes outstanding contributions to registered nurses who contribute directly at the point of care and/or bedside nursing at a THA member hospital or health system. Areas of achievement to be considered include outstanding/exemplary bedside patient care, role model for colleagues, mentor for new staff, serves as patient advocate, proactive in making recommendations, and supportive of process improvements on behalf of improved outcomes for patients.

Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters supporting the nomination. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

PATIENT SAFETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Patient Safety Leadership Award recognizes an individual who has taken extraordinary and innovative steps to make patient safety and quality a top priority in their organization. It honors superior efforts in preventing adverse health events and measures improvement through the hospital's participation in the Tennessee Center for Patient Safety collaboratives.

Nominees must be employed by a THA member institution for a minimum of four years (does not need to be at the same institution).

Submit via email in a single PDF document to lkarim@tha.com:

- A detailed narrative (2 to 5 pages) describing why this individual deserves recognition, including a description of specific quality and patient safety activities and projects this individual has led, implementation strategies, and outcomes achieved. Data and graphs to demonstrate improvements obtained are encouraged and do not count against the narrative pages. Quality and patient safety activities may include activities with the Tennessee Center for Patient Safety, organizational culture changes to support safety, and other contributions to the healthcare industry, employer, association, professional organizations, and community.
- A current curriculum vitae or narrative biography of the nominee.
- Two to three letters supporting the nomination. Letters must be signed and may be scanned if electronic signatures are not available.
- **A high resolution JPEG color photograph of the nominee suitable for publication.** Photos must be sent separately from the nomination packet and be in a .JPEG format and must include the name of the individual and the name of the award in the file name.

2025 THA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION FORM

This form *must be included* in the full nomination packet and submitted via email in a single PDF format. Packets must be emailed to Laila Karim, lkarim@tha.com.

PLEASE CHECK AWARD CATEGORY:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CEO of Distinction | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Executive of Distinction | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Nurse of Distinction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small and Rural Hospital Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee of Distinction | <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Safety Leadership |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse Leader of Distinction | |

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

TITLE: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

EMPLOYER MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

NOMINEE EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NOMINEE DIRECT PHONE NUMBER: _____ **NOMINEE MOBILE NUMBER:** _____

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION: _____
(must be a full-time employee of the hospital or health system)

TITLE: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

EMPLOYER MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

DIRECT PHONE NUMBER: _____ **MOBILE NUMBER:** _____

IN 2-3 SENTENCES, DESCRIBE THE REASON FOR THIS PERSON'S NOMINATION *(do not just state "see attached")*

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR *(required)*: _____ **DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE OF CEO: _____ **DATE:** _____

(CEO signature is not required for CEO of Distinction or Small and Rural award nominations.)

Please submit details supporting nomination as requested in the guidelines. Your signature indicates you have reviewed criteria for the nomination, reviewed the nomination for compliance with the guidelines and certify completeness of the nomination. Incomplete nominations will be disqualified. The judging panel reserves the right to move any nomination to another category.

Deadline: April 25, 2025 • This form must be completely filled out and submitted with the nomination packet.