Excellence in Creativity & Innovation
Edith Moore Copeland Founders Award

NOMINATION TIMELINE

1 November 2026-1 March 2027

NOTIFICATION

Award recipients will be notified in July 2027.

PRESENTATION

All awards will be presented at Sigma's Biennial Convention.

PURPOSE

The Founders Awards offer homage to the six founding nurses of Sigma and the director of nursing at Indiana University for their insights in 1922 that advanced scholarship, leadership, research, and practice. This award recognizes extraordinary excellence in creativity and innovation.

Creativity and innovation can be displayed through collaboration that advances the profession of nursing, optimization of nursing practice and academe working together, adoption of technology to improve healthcare, and many other creative activities to impact nursing education, practice, or research. **Sigma membership is required.**

ELIGIBILITY

All active Sigma members worldwide are eligible to be nominated for this award. **Members may not self-nominate; any self-nominations will be disqualified**. Current Sigma International Board of Directors, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are not eligible. Nominees can receive only one award per biennium. Nominees can accept only one nomination per biennium. Recipients from 2023 and 2025 are not eligible to receive the same award in 2027.

CRITERIA

Nomination should show evidence of meeting a majority of the following criteria:

1. Advances the knowledge base or image of nursing through creative activity
2. Disseminates results of creative activity, making data available to nurses and agencies for decision-making in providing nursing care (e.g., patient records, aggregate data, literature accessibility)
3. Uses technology and/or other innovations to further professional and/or educational goals
4. Exemplifies uniqueness and originality
5. Uses a multidisciplinary or interprofessional approach including clinical practice, academe, and research
6. Demonstrates measurable positive patient outcomes

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Supporting documents required below should address a majority of the above criteria. Entries that do not meet the criteria and requirements below will be disqualified. A complete online nomination consists of:

- Online entry form
- Supporting narrative, from the nominator (1-2 pages)

- Two letters of support from diverse sources supporting the criteria (interprofessional colleague, supervisor, coworker, etc.—excluding nominator)
- Nominee's curriculum vitae
- Letter of acceptance—A statement from the nominee accepting the nomination and agreeing to attend Sigma's biennial convention if selected as the award recipient
- Supporting documentation—Materials or summaries that provide direct evidence of meeting the award criteria (not to exceed 10 pages). This includes videos, writing samples, articles, photos, etc. This is an opportunity to expand on the summary provided by the supporting narrative. Additional letters of support will not be considered.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, contact awards@sigmanursing.org.