



JNESO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO
the professional health care union

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JNESO Names Rep. Tarah Probst “Public Servant of the Year” and Awards 4 Scholarships

North Brunswick (April 12, 2024) – JNESO District Council 1 IUOE-AFL-CIO, the professional healthcare union, will be recognizing a Pennsylvania lawmaker and awarding four scholarships on Tuesday, April 16, during their Education Day Event at Wind Creek Bethlehem Resort, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Each year, JNESO members select a “Public Servant of the Year” and awards \$1,000 scholarships to eligible JNESO members and their families to help continue their education. JNESO represents 5,000 nurses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including over 300 nurses at Lehigh Valley Pocono Hospital (LHV-P).

Public Servant of the Year

The support of local lawmakers is critical to ensuring that issues and concerns of nurses and other health care professionals are taken into consideration when legislation is being created in the State.

JNESO selected Tarah Probst, Representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly for House District 189 in Monroe and Pike Counties as the “2024 Public Servant of the Year.”

“Representative Probst has always been a strong advocate for labor unions and showed her support for LVH-P and other nurses many times over the years, both as a Mayor and now as a State Representative. She attended many of our Safe Staffing events and our rally for Safe Staffing last May,” said Bob Williams, President of the JNESO Local at Lehigh Valley Pocono Hospital (LVH-P) and a member of the JNESO Board of Directors. “We continue to endorse her and are extremely proud to be able to recognize and honor her as our 2024 Public Servant of the Year.”



“I am so honored to be the recipient of this award,” said Rep. Probst. “I have, and always will, stand by our nurses and safe staffing. This is critical to the care of our loved ones and the ability to stand with nurses, so that they can do the job they love.”

Probst was elected as Mayor of Stroudsburg in a special election in 2015, won in 2017 and 2021. She won the State House in 2022. Throughout her career, she has prioritized the needs of workers from unions to small businesses and truly serves her region as a strong-willed representative.

The 2024 JNESO Scholarship Recipients are selected based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness, and career goals.

Barbara Crosby Scholarship: For JNESO members' spouses or children advancing education in healthcare.

Recipient: Ariana Tabamo, of Williamstown, N.J., is a nursing student at The College of New Jersey where she maintains a 3.845 GPA and plans to graduate with a B.S.N. in May 2027.

"I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to personally helping people, and nursing was the option that appealed to my interest in science. I think that nursing is a very noble career to get into, because of the difference a good nurse makes in people's lives," said Tabamo.

Tabamo is involved in The College of New Jersey's Student Nurses Association, Asian American Association, Barkada - the university's Filipino Cultural Organization, as well as playing in the Wind Orchestra. She stated that this scholarship will help her fund her education and reach her goals.



Tabamo noted her mom and dad have been her inspiration to strive for success. "They are both very hardworking people and have instilled this value in me. They taught me that anything is possible if you put in the effort. From them, I have gained the motivation to strive for the stars and persist in the face of difficulty, a skill that I am very thankful to have!" Her dad, Fransico Tabamo, is a JNESO member and CCRN at Virtua Voorhees Hospital.

Laura King Scholarship: For JNESO members' spouses or children advancing education in any field of higher education.

Recipient: Cameron Jones, of North Plainfield, N.J., is a graduating senior from Union Catholic High School.

Jones is a passionate student with aspirations to become an actor. He is currently a member of the International Thespian Honor Society and has received Art Honors from Union Catholic High School. Throughout the years, Jones has been involved with the Union Catholic Performing Arts Company, the Boy's and Girl's Club of Elizabeth, and his high school's track and field organization. He has also volunteered as a church usher and with the Caynon Club which assists children with disabilities.



Jones cites last year's Screenwriter strike as a profound influence on his desire to use his voice to fight for the rights of others in the workplace. His mother's strength and willingness to take on workplace issues on behalf of her nursing colleagues inspires him.

His mother, Florine, is a JNESO member and on the JNESO Board of Directors. She works as an RN, at Hoboken University Medical Center.

Virginia Spiegel Scholarship: For JNESO union members advancing education in healthcare.

Recipient: Sidrah Chaudhry, of Bayonne, N.J., is a student at Rutgers University - Newark pursuing her Master of Science in Nursing.



“My ultimate goal is to become a nursing leader who inspires and encourages fellow nurses, fostering their personal and professional growth,” said Chaudhry. “I believe in making a positive impact, one person at a time, and aspire to inspire new nurses to actively engage in the nursing profession. The desire to be there for others during vulnerable times and provide compassionate care has been my driving force in choosing this field,” she added.

Her passion for patient-centered care and improving healthcare outcomes is evident in her career path. She began her nursing career at a nursing home before moving to acute care, joining the Telemetry Unit at Hoboken University Medical Center in March 2021. By July 2023, she transitioned to the ICU to further develop her critical thinking abilities. In 2022, she was nominated and appointed as Chief Steward for the JNESO union leadership at Hoboken University Medical Center.

“I am proud to be affiliated with JNESO and currently hold the position of Chief Steward. This role allows me to learn from and collaborate with fellow officers and staff nurses, contributing to my growth as a nursing leader,” she explained.

Chaudhry said the scholarship will help support her education and further her aspirations. “My biggest inspiration throughout my academic and professional journey is the belief that while I may not change the world entirely, I can positively impact one person's world.”

Virginia Treacy Scholarship: For union members, their spouses or children advancing the principles and values of the labor movement and the importance of union participation:

Recipient: David Lambert, of Medford, N.J., is a student at Rutgers University pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering.



“I aspire to be an R&D Mechanical Engineer working on robotics in the space industry. When I was in high school I joined the school's robotics team and found my passion for mechanical design. I want to continue to explore the field in areas where innovation is at its peak, in space,” said Lambert.

At Rutgers, he assists professors with research on different ground traction platforms and smart wheels for the Federal Aviation Administration, as well as research on bipedal robots. He also acts as the Structural Analysis Lead for the school's Nanosatellite Team and as Project Manager and Mechanical Lead for the school's Space Robotics Team.

Lambert said, “This scholarship will help me focus on my studies, research, and leadership positions at Rutgers University.”

He points to his mother’s union experiences for inspiring his focus on collaboration and teamwork, as well as supporting his tireless efforts.

“My biggest inspiration has always been my mother. She has always worked so hard to support me in my endeavors and provide anything she possibly could to further my career and the lives of those around her. Without her, nothing I have accomplished so far would have been possible,”

Lambert’s mother, Patricia, is a JNESO member and RN at Virtua Summit Surgical Center in Voorhees, N.J.

Education Day is part of JNESO’s ongoing commitment to making sure nurses have access to the latest information and training on important issues that can affect patients and the healthcare profession.

To learn more about JNESO visit www.JNESO.org

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