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## American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing Leader Rachel Start Selected by the American Academy of Nursing for Class of 2020 Fellows



PITMAN, NJ – Rachel Start, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, an influential leader, author, researcher, educator, and speaker for the [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing \(AAACN\)](#), has been chosen by the American Academy of Nursing (Academy) to the 2020 Class of Fellows, one of the most prestigious honors in nursing.

Start will be among the 230 highly distinguished nurse leaders in the 2020 class who will be celebrated at an induction ceremony during the Academy's annual *Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference*, taking place virtually October 29-31, 2020.

"Rachel Start has had a huge impact on moving the ambulatory care nursing specialty forward," AAACN President Anne Jessie, DNP, RN, said. "She's paved the way on a broad variety of professional practice initiatives and devoted countless volunteer hours to our association and many other organizations. The AAACN Board of Directors, volunteers, members, and staff congratulate her on this well-deserved honor."

### **Awards, Service, and Professional Career**

Start won AAACN's 2016 President's Above and Beyond Award, an honor that reflects the depth of her service to the association for more than 7 years. She has chaired – or been a member of – numerous AAACN taskforces and committees, including the AAACN Nurse Sensitive Indicators Taskforce.

She has served the AAACN and Collaborative Alliance for Nursing Outcomes (CALNOC) Steering Committee for Development and Pilot Testing of Nurse Sensitive Indicators (NSI) in Ambulatory Care since 2015. She is the founder of the Illinois Ambulatory Nurse Practice Consortium AAACN Local Networking Group, serving as chair from 2013-2018.

Start is currently the Director of Ambulatory Nursing and Nursing Practice at Rush Oak Park Hospital, Oak Park, IL. She is also a consultant to numerous organizations on ambulatory nursing structure, care delivery redesign, and ambulatory NSI research. She is a prolific writer, speaker, and researcher and is considered one of the country's top nursing experts on shared governance, Ambulatory Care NSIs, Magnet standards, nursing innovation, and staffing.

#### **Additional AAACN Member Chosen**

Along with Start, AAACN member Mary Blankson, DNP, ARNP, FNP-C, was also chosen for induction in the 2020 Class of Fellows. Dr. Blankson, who is Chief Nursing Officer, Community Health Center, Inc., Middletown, CT, joined AAACN in 2016.

Jessie praised her contributions as a member of the AAACN Nurse Executive Task Force and as a noted speaker at two recent AAACN conferences.

#### **About AAN Fellowship**

The 2020 Class of Fellows represents 38 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territory of Guam, as well as 13 countries. The Academy is currently comprised of more than 2,700 nurse leaders who are experts in policy, research, administration, practice and academia. These nurses champion health and wellness from the local to the global level.

Fellows are selected through a rigorous process and chosen for their outstanding contributions to advancing public health. Being inducted into the Academy is a significant milestone in a nurse leader's career due to the competitive selection process conducted by their colleagues within the profession.

"I am honored to welcome this exceptional class to the American Academy of Nursing," said Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN. "Their work, across many fields of expertise, exemplifies the power of nursing knowledge in creating meaningful change."

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