

2024 Phenomenal Women Award Winners

Congratulations to the Cancer Center's 2024 Phenomenal Women Award winners! Nominated by colleagues, recipients are honored for their contributions that make UVACC a more inclusive, better place to work. In celebration of Women's History Month, they will be honored March 1 at the Women in Healthcare and Aspiring Leaders Lunch at The Graduate Hotel. (Event registration has closed.)



Elizabeth Austin

"Elizabeth is the glue that holds this pharmacy together. Her dedication to our patients as well

as her everyday uplifting attitude drives the success of this pharmacy. It is a privilege to work alongside her both for professional and personal reasons. I am fortunate to call her my friend and colleague. Her compassion for our cancer patients is evident in everything she does."



Devon Bloxsom

"Devon is an exemplar of inclusivity. She has positively and directly impacted patient care

within each role she has filled in the organization. Devon always shows compassion and commitment to and for others. She is trustworthy, honest and fair and is a large part of employee satisfaction. Devon is a trusted and valued role model, advocate and leader who always shows compassion and commitment to and for others."



Nikki Carey

"Nikki is a team player and always treats everyone with respect. She knows our patients by

name and in an emotionally stressful environment has the ability to make people feel seen and recognized. She is invaluable. Nikki greets everyone from housekeeping to MD's and treats them all the same, making everyone feel comfortable and welcome. She is strong, talented and hard working. Her kindness makes my day!"



Sharon Ferguson

"Sharon is an invaluable member of our team, and we are all very fortunate to have her. She is efficient and one of her greatest attributes is her wonderful attitude. She creates a calming and uplifting atmosphere and expresses a strong work ethic and dedication. She always shows tremendous compassion and empathy."



Joycelyn George

"Joycelyn makes me smile, and she makes her patients smile too! She provides a happy distraction from the stress of cancer and is always paying attention to the little details. Joycelyn also has an amazing positive attitude, which is very important when helping patients and fellow team members navigate the cancer journey. Joycelyn is a brilliant light in the darkness of cancer."



Lindsay Hauser

"Lindsay shares her passion to not only move herself forward to succeed in whatever she is pursuing but also to move forward her team so that goals and mission of the Cancer Center are being realized. Her guidance, strong drive and dedication for excellence in the workplace and in the community make her a phenomenal woman. Lindsay is one of the best colleagues I have ever worked with. Lindsay cares deeply about the success and development of all staff."



Jane Hebllich

"Jane embodies qualities of compassion, thoughtfulness, and exceptional leadership. Her leadership style is characterized by a genuine concern for others, a thoughtful approach, and a dedication to bringing out the best in everyone. Jane is an exceptional human being. She shows empathy and positivity in every aspect of her leadership. Jane is one of a kind and she sets a great example of true grace."



Anuradha Illendula

"Anuradha's impact extends far beyond science; she serves as an inspiration to women and minorities in general, exemplifying the heights they can reach. Her passion for helping and supporting others is ineffably steadfast; not only in her scientific goals but in her role as a mentee/boss. Anuradha is an incredible role model and her phenomenal work in cutting edge science has inspired young scientists to work diligently outside of their comfort zone. She is a pioneer in the highly interdisciplinary fields of drug discovery and delivery. I have learned a lifetime of lessons from Dr. Anuradha!"



Jennifer Kashatus

"Jennifer is a gifted scientist who implements and optimizes many of the challenging techniques and protocols that the Kashatus lab uses. She frequently and selflessly donates her time and efforts to help researchers. Jennifer has an infectious positive attitude, going out of her way to make everyone feel welcome, heard, and appreciated. She has had an incredibly positive impact on our department and in the larger cancer research community at UVA."



Jessica Kassay-McAllister

"Jessica is a cancer survivor, a wife, a mother, amazing manager, instructor, and a skilled clinician whose patients love her for her excellent care. She wears these hats, and many others, with grace and poise. Her commitment to diversity and inclusion is evident through her patient education materials, culturally competent care plans, and unbiased empathy she shows to every patient. She actively promotes collaboration, open communication, and guidance, creating an environment where everyone feels valued and heard."



Alexys Riddick

"Alexys is a 5th year Ph.D. candidate in the Molecular and Cellular Basis of Disease Program. She is dedicated to DEI and is very supportive of all people around her. She is known for starting and participating in many initiatives at UVA and in the Charlottesville community, including Shades of Sisterhood (SOS), Black Graduate and Professional Student Organization (BGPSTO), and the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Central Blue Ridge Program. Most recently, she co-founded Project Bridge with the goal of making research accessible to the Charlottesville community."



Lauren Showalter

"Lauren is not only caring, compassionate, and understanding, she is also highly skilled, intelligent and an important member of our team. She is calming and reassuring to every person who sits in the "big blue chair." She always says, "we will get through this together, don't you worry my friend." She connects with each patient as if they have been lifelong friends. One patient reported, "she is the only one that understands my veins... she is MAGICAL!"



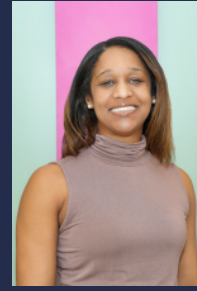
Erica Stallard

"We would be lost without her! Erica is extremely knowledgeable about the clinical research process and the inner workings of the Cancer Center and UVA Health as a whole. She is a patient, non-judgmental teacher to all. Erica constantly puts others first and fosters a positive, welcoming work environment through her openness and inclusion."



Christina Taylor

"Christina is an exceptional nurse practitioner. I am thankful to call her a colleague and inspired daily by the care she provides to our community. Her care is recognized as outstanding by her patients who often comment that they felt "seen and heard." She delivers the same level of care regardless of race, class, education or disability. She is a fierce advocate and a ray of sunshine!"



Shanel Tibbs

"Shanel is the definition of a phenomenal woman! She is professional, caring, kind, and authentic. She conducts herself with excellence and is an expert in her area. She maintains a strong work ethic and is resilient when faced with challenges. Shanel deserves recognition for her excellence at work and for her lovely heart."

Please do not reply directly to this email. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please email Dr. Taylor at ksm3rt@uvahealth.org.

The Cancer Center diversity, equity, and inclusion [webpage](#) is now live; please visit us regularly for updates and important information.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

UVA Cancer Center is committed to promoting inclusion and equity among its internal and external communities by creating an environment that supports and enables the success of a diverse community.

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