

2026 Joy L Henderson Award

Jahshirah Rossi, BS, BSN, RN



Jahshirah Rossi is the first recipient of the Joy Henderson Award which was established to recognize deserving nurses who emulate Joy's commitment to perinatal care and dedication, commitment to the nursing profession and consistently striving to - and improving their knowledge and expertise.

Jahshirah exemplifies the highest standards of the nursing profession. She is in her element at the bedside of a critically ill patient on ECMO: managing numerous drips, responding to her patient's dynamic clinical signs from moment to moment. She brings the very same level of expertise when she is caring for a baby approaching discharge, with very different priorities of preparing the family for feeding and caring for their baby at home and to calm a parent's nerves as they leave the NICU with their baby for the first time.

Jahshirah does not hesitate to advocate for her patients, whether to alert the team to a clinical concern, or to share her sense of what intervention would serve them best. She is focused on both the baby and their family. Whether she is supporting parents through complex clinical situations or ensuring their voices are heard and respected, Jahshirah is a steadfast champion for patient autonomy, dignity, and informed care. Jahshirah harnessed this passion by working with a team to develop a nursing-led rounding tool, which has been

implemented in our NICU on daily family-centered rounds.

Jahshirah is not only exceptional at the bedside, she is an exemplary leader. When she is at the helm tasked with being charge nurse, each team member feels supported. She recognizes when a more junior nurse needs support or when a baby is sick and it is "all hands on deck".

When Jahshirah is a preceptor for a nursing student or new staff nurse, she is a natural mentor. She generously shares her knowledge and expertise with her colleagues and mentees. She embodies clinical excellence while consistently demonstrating leadership, collaboration, and advocacy. She does this all with a positive and tireless attitude. On the busiest days, Jahshirah keeps morale high and figures out what must get done to continue

providing excellent care to her patients, their families, and the team. In every respect, Jahshirah embodies the qualities this award seeks to recognize: dedication, advocacy, equity, humility, mentorship, and an unwavering commitment to the nursing profession.



The Joy Henderson Memorial Award is sponsored by the Association of Regional Perinatal Programs (ARPP). ARPP serves as the unified voice for the regional perinatal centers in NYS and has been the clearinghouse to the Dept of Health and Governor's Office, providing expertise, data, and advocacy regarding perinatal healthcare.