

2025 AANA Helen Lamb Outstanding Educator Award
Laura S. Bonanno, PhD, DNP, CRNA, FAANA, FAAN

Receiving the Helen Lamb Award is truly one of the greatest honors of my career. I am deeply humbled and incredibly grateful to the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology for this prestigious recognition. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Paul Austin for nominating me and to Drs. Frank Gerbasi, Brett Morgan, and Lori Schirle for their letters of support. I also want to thank the nurse anesthesia faculty at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing for their support, dedication, and passion for quality education and Dr. Demetrius Porche for his mentorship.

Helen Lamb was an educator, a visionary, and a relentless advocate for nurse anesthetists and to be honored in her name means more than words can express. I have dedicated my career to advancing education to ensure that nurse anesthesia graduates are competent and confident practitioners who provide excellent patient care.

I have been so fortunate to be a part of many AANA committees and Taskforces which allowed me to serve the profession. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as a Board Member on the Council on Accreditation which allowed me to participate in ensuring the highest standards for nurse anesthesia education. It has been my privilege to guide, mentor and inspire fellow educators.

To my students – past and present – you are the heartbeat of this profession. Your dedication, resilience and pursuit of excellence inspire me every day. It is your passion for learning and patient care that will ensure the continued strength and integrity of our profession.

Most importantly, I want to thank my husband Gary and son Christopher. You mean the world to me, and I love you both so much. Thank you for your love, support, and encouragement always.