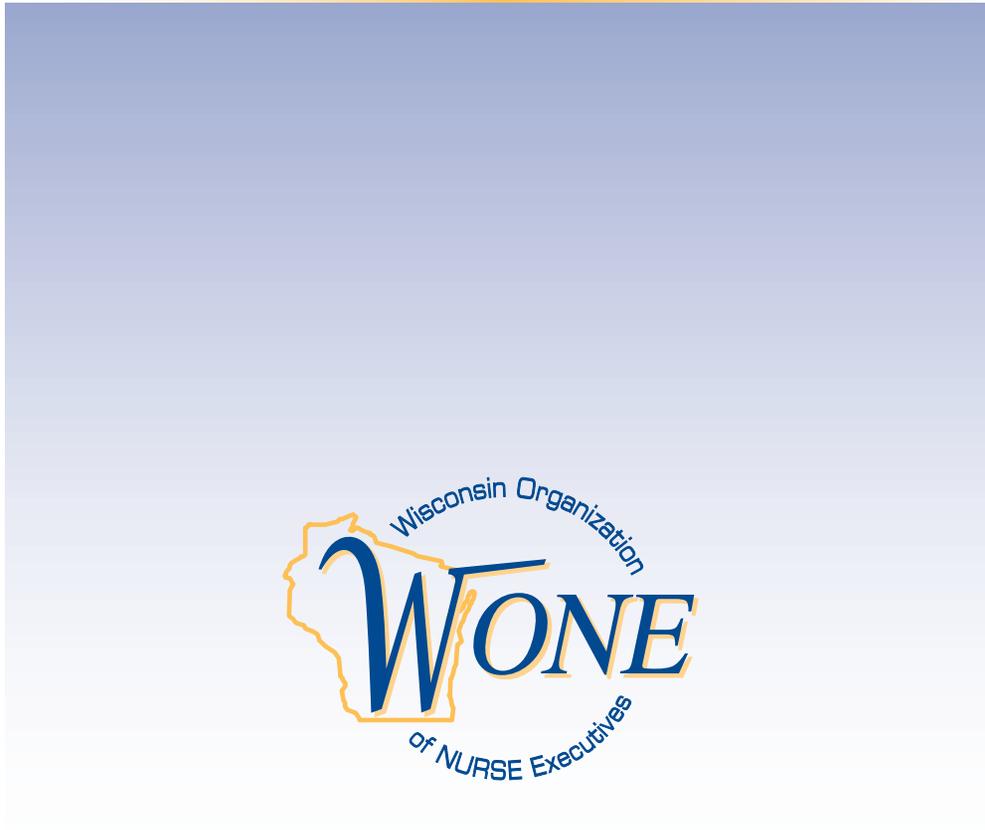




2018  
*Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives  
Annual Convention*

*Nurse Leader of the Year Award*



Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives  
608-268-1806  
[www.w-one.org](http://www.w-one.org)

### **About the Award**

Each spring, the Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives (WONE) honors a Wisconsin nurse leader who has made significant contributions to nursing and nursing leadership, to WONE, and to his/her place of employment and community. Each award recipient selected for this annual recognition meets the following criteria:

- Is a member in good standing of WONE;
- Has provided service to WONE through participation in special or standing committees or through elected offices;
- Demonstrates creativity in nursing leadership;
- Promotes the profession of nursing and nursing leadership within the organization and the community, serving as a role model, mentor and coach to others;
- Demonstrates nursing leadership by sharing knowledge and expertise through presentations in seminars, formal course offerings and/or publications;
- Develops positive relationships with other disciplines, including administration and medicine;
- Demonstrates compassion and spirit toward patients, families, and colleagues; and
- Participates in a broad range of civic and health care-related organizations, and is a political activist for nursing and health care.

## *WONE* *2018 Nurse Leader of the Year*

### **Ruth Risley-Gray, MHA, BSN, RN, CPHQ, CENP**

The Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives (WONE) has selected Ruth Risley-Gray, senior vice president and system chief nursing officer, Aspirus Inc., for its 2018 Nurse Leader of the Year Award.

Ruth has been a member of WONE for 13 years and a member of the WONE Board of Directors from 2015-2017. She has been an active member of the WONE Finance Committee and participated in the WONE Legislative Committee. Along with WONE, she serves on various other boards and committees in the community, including the Blood Center of North Central Wisconsin and the Northcentral Technical College Board of Directors.

Ruth began her health care career in 1976 as a staff nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee. She quickly moved into leadership positions of increasing authority, serving at several rural, regional and academic health care systems before assuming her current position with Aspirus in January 2014.

As the first Aspirus system CNO, she had the vision and goal to unify and standardize nursing practice across the Aspirus system. She helped create a Professional Practice Model and developed a System Practice Council and System Quality and Patient Safety Council. In addition to the system standardizations, she also implemented the enterprise-wide electronic health record, Epic, to standardize clinical practice and other business functions.

"Ruth's ability to plan and execute strategy has led to improved care for our patients, enhanced professional practice of our nurses, and developed an infrastructure to build a pipeline of future nurse leaders for our health system," said Lisa K. Rowe-Pelinski, vice president, quality improvement and patient safety. She also noted, "As a nurse executive and leader, Ruth is incredibly generous with her time and expertise. Ruth's knowledge of the industry, and her experience, has led her to be a valued board member with Northcentral Technical College and numerous other community organizations."

Aspirus President/CEO Matt Heywood said he couldn't think of a more deserving leader. "Ruth is incredibly passionate about nursing and about constantly elevating the care we provide to those who choose Aspirus," he said. "I'm proud to have her on our executive leadership team, and I look forward to the many more contributions she will make to our system and the communities we serve."

