



(November 19, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing:** Under Secretary for Health's (USH) 2015 Awards Program for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education, and Research

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1. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) SimLEARN Program announces the Under Secretary for Health's 2015 Awards Program for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education, and Research. This awards program recognizes clinical and executive leaders in VHA's clinical simulation community who have supported and advanced VHA's strategic plan for clinical simulation. The annual awards program was established to promote and advance system-wide progress of VHA goals, objectives, and strategies for the deployment of clinical simulation to improve the quality of health care for Veterans.

2. VHA Directive 1133, the applicable documentation for this award, was recently released on July 1, 2015. This directive expands the USH awards for simulation from two to four award categories to support the great work that is being done in the field. The following is a list of the awards:

- a. **Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Practice Award.** This award honors one individual who has been actively engaged in the direct provision of clinical simulation training, education and research at a VHA health care facility and whose practice has had national impact. The recipient's contributions to system-wide improvements in learners' competencies and proficiencies demonstrate such excellence as to merit recognition from peers.

- b. **Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Champion Award.** This award honors one individual for the successful implementation of simulation-based training and systems testing at a VA medical facility, within a VISN, or across VHA. This champion diligently briefs staff and leadership of the benefits of clinical simulation, integrates simulation into daily clinical operations where appropriate, obtains resources, develops plans, and encourages, recruits, and schedules staff or instructors to engage in simulation-based clinical training.
 - c. **Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Champion Award for the Resuscitation Education Initiative (REdI).** This award honors one individual for the successful implementation of the Resuscitation Education Initiative (REdI) at a VA medical facility, within a VISN, or across VHA. This champion diligently briefs staff and leadership of the benefits of focused resuscitation training, integrates simulation-based resuscitation training into daily operations where appropriate, manages resources, develops plans, and encourages, recruits, and schedules staff or instructors to engage in resuscitation training.
 - d. **Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Executive Leadership Award.** This award recognizes one VA medical facility Executive Leader (Director, Chief of Staff, Chief Nurse Executive or equivalent) or VISN Executive Leader (Network Director, Deputy Network Director, Chief Medical Officer) who has achieved distinction in promoting a significant component of VHA's clinical simulation training, education, and research strategic plan.
3. Nominations will be received through October 31, 2015, and must be endorsed by both the Facility and the Network Director. The nomination forms, including instructions for completion, are available online at <http://www.simlearn.va.gov/SIMLEARN/Awards.asp>. Nominations should be submitted via e-mail to VHASimExcellenceAwards@va.gov. The Awards Review Committee will recommend recipients to the Under Secretary for Health for selection.
4. All nominations must include general information about the nominee and provide information relevant to each of the criteria, as applicable to the specific award as listed in VA Directive 1133. Narrative information that addresses the criteria is limited to no longer than two pages.
5. VA Form 0235, Security Check for Candidate Requiring Approval of the Secretary, section concerning Information Regarding the Candidate is to be completed and accompany the nomination package.
6. Candidates that might retire before selection are still eligible for award as long as their retirement date is after the award processing time period.

If you have any questions about the awards program or the nomination process, please contact Joshua Striker, SimLEARN National Center Activities Coordinator at 407-531-6141, or e-mail the nomination processing team at VHASimExcellenceAwards@va.gov