

2023 Didactic Instructor of the Year Award

Courtney Brown, PhD, CRNA, CHSE, FAANA Acceptance Award

I am honored by the AANA selection committee for receiving the 2023 Didactic Instructor of the Year. Having spent most of my CRNA career as an educator, receiving an award for the work I dedicated myself to is humbling.

Many educators feel undervalued; our labor entails long days, weekends, and nights of preparing presentations, simulation labs, letters of recommendation, peer-reviewed articles, and editing student examinations and papers. But I gave more, having served on AANA and NBCRNA committees and coordinating 100 students on international mission trips.

I served on committees within the institution to bring respect to our small education program. And having advised Ph.D. and DNP students, some graduates demonstrate an equal passion for professional engagement.

Being a vibrant educator is a blessing and a curse. Still, you are surrounded by a cadre of supporters which I would be mindful to recognize.

I want to thank Sandra Ouellette and Michael Rieker for their mentorship in my role; you always believed in me. I want to thank my colleague, Kristin Henderson; you always pushed me. I want to thank my students and graduates; you consistently challenged me. And, thank you Travis Brown, my family, and my friends, you *always encouraged my dreams*.