



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local CRNA Recognized with National Award

*- Boston native, Donnell Carter, receives prestigious humanitarian award*

*--Carter mentors and educates at home and abroad*

**Boston, MA** – Last week, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Donnell Carter, MBA, MS, CRNA, received the prestigious Janice G. Drake CRNA Humanitarian Award at the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) Annual Congress. The AANA Annual Congress is the largest CRNA educational event of the year and was held virtually between August 13-17. This year's event was entitled: Persevere and Transform Together and was attended by thousands of CRNA professionals and providers across the country.

The Janice G. Drake CRNA Humanitarian Award is presented annually to a CRNA who volunteers and provides anesthesia, education, and training in needy areas of the United States and overseas. Carter was chosen for his ongoing work and commitment to the Liberian nurse anesthetist project, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The mission of the project is to train, support and mentor the nurse anesthetist faculty and leaders at the [Phebe College of Health Sciences \(PCHS\)](#) in West Africa. PCHS is the only school in Africa training student-nurse anesthetists to provide high quality and safe anesthesia services to the Liberian surgical and obstetric population.

Carter said, "I am honored to receive this prestigious award. The true honor extends to the courageous Liberian CRNAs who deal with an unimaginable level of adversity in order to raise a population of trained nurse anesthetist to provide safe anesthesia care to the surgical and obstetric Liberian civilians."

Carter visited PCHS in 2019 and witnessed first-hand the challenges facing Liberian nurse anesthetists, including the need for basic communication and transportation services to provide safe and quality care. His visit inspired him to raise awareness and funds through his own social media. Carter shared daily stories about the Liberian experience, and through his story-telling was able to collect donations to fund

critical resources such as tablets, internet access and a refurbished bus for the PCHS team. In the height of the pandemic, Carter strengthened his commitment to the project by participating in weekly virtual meetings with his colleagues in Liberia, sharing best practices and critical care information about the COVID-19 virus.

Carter is a past president of the Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA), currently practices at [Beth Israel Lahey Health](#) and is a member of the Boston-African Anesthesia Collaborative which builds clinical community for safe anesthesia care with monthly global Grand Rounds. He is also a fitness and wellness coach, and enjoys helping clients achieve their personal health goals.

Elaine Sullivan, President of MANA said, “On behalf of the more than 1000 members of MANA, I congratulate Donnell on receiving the 2021 Janice G. Drake Humanitarian award. Utilizing his character, skill and experience, Donnell has admirably and selflessly served others throughout his entire career. He is a true humanitarian who has positively impacted the lives of people all over the world, raising the bar for all CRNAs and human beings.”

CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses who safely administer more than 49 million anesthetics in the United States each year. As the primary hands-on provider of anesthesia care in both civilian and military healthcare settings, CRNAs practice in every type of facility where anesthesia is required for patient care. That includes but is not limited to hospital operating and delivery rooms; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, and plastic surgeons; pain management centers; and all U.S. Military service branches, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. CRNAs continue to serve on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carter said, “As nurse anesthesiologist, we are gifted. I encourage all my colleagues to share those gifts to improve the lives of our global patient population. Hopefully this award helps to raise awareness of the need global programming to ensure safe nurse anesthesia care services in underserved communities worldwide.”

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#### **About the Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists**

The Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA) is the state association of more than 1000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) dedicated to the professional interests of nurse anesthetists in Massachusetts. MANA champions patient safety through the advancement of the science and art of anesthesia, as well as the promotion of cooperation between nurse anesthetists, medical professionals, hospitals and other interested agencies. [www.masscrna.com](http://www.masscrna.com)

#### **About the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology**

Founded in 1931 and located in Park Ridge, Ill., the AANA is the professional organization for the nation's nearly 54,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and student registered nurse anesthetists. The AANA advances patient safety and the CRNA profession through excellence in practice and service to members. As anesthesia professionals, CRNAs safely administer more than 49 million anesthetics to patients each year. Learn more at [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com).