



2025 Award Recipient – Tony Zara Video Transcript

©2025 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

Presenter

NCSBN Awards Committee

2025 NCSBN Founders Award. In NCSBN's 47-year history, only an elite group of esteemed individuals have received NCSBN's highest honor. Tonight, Tony Zara joins the ranks of Founders Award recipients. For the past 25 years, Tony has been a trusted partner and key leader in NCSBN's collaborative relationship with Pearson VUE.

His dedication to NCSBN's mission began as an NCSBN employee. For 13 years, he provided a guiding framework for innovations in exam delivery, test security, and exam integrity. His influence shaped numerous NCLEX enhancements, including successfully transitioning the exam to a computerized adaptive format.

Tony also worked with NCSBN to ensure NCLEX test site availability during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping maintain the nursing workforce pipeline during the global health crisis. He played a pivotal role in expanding the NCLEX into Canada and provided strategic support for the successful launch of the next-generation NCLEX.

A respected thought leader, Tony has published extensively and presented at numerous national and international conferences. His recent service as president of the International Association for Computerized Adaptive Testing exemplifies his ongoing dedication to advancing the science and practice of assessment. Those fortunate enough to work alongside Tony know about his boundless energy and unmatched ability to translate complex, psychometric concepts into accessible ideas.

He is not only a brilliant innovator, but also a generous mentor and collaborator. Tony's career reflects the highest ideals upon which NCSBN was founded. His lasting contributions to licensure testing, regulatory excellence, and the nursing profession make him deeply deserving of the NCSBN Founders Award.

♪ [music] ♪