

2026

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



AACN Pioneering Spirit Award

Michael Ackerman

Michael Ackerman, PhD, RN, APRN-BC, FCCM, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN, is director of the Master in Healthcare Innovation Program, professor of clinical nursing, and director of the Center for Healthcare Innovation and Leadership at The Ohio State University College of Nursing. He also practices as an acute care nurse practitioner at St Joseph's Neighborhood

Center in Rochester, New York, and owns Ackerman Consulting, a healthcare and leadership consulting company.

Ackerman is a clinical nurse specialist and acute care nurse practitioner whose longtime AACN involvement and commitment to innovation have advanced acute and critical care for patients, families and nurses. He has served as an AACN subject matter expert and partner for more than 30 years. He is a well-known NTI presenter who routinely draws packed rooms; his sessions on extended reality in nursing education are especially popular.

Ackerman is a skilled clinician, avid researcher, motivational speaker and caring leader. His career spans almost every role in clinical practice and academia. He has contributed extensively through publications on sepsis, airway management, hemodynamics, innovation and leadership, and national and international presentations. His work in innovation has driven significant disruptions in clinical practice and health system change.

AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
of CRITICAL-CARE
NURSES