

Abortion Care Network Announces 2018 Person of the Year Awards

Every year, Abortion Care Network (ACN) presents their Person of the Year award to an abortion access champion in recognition of their relentless work to preserve access to dignified abortion care. In 2018, ACN announced two Person of the Year recipients: abortion care provider, professor, and researcher Dr. Monica McLemore, and communications firm ConwayStrategic.

Monica McLemore RN, MPH, PhD is an abortion care nurse with the Women's Options Center, assistant professor of nursing, and a researcher with Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH), all at the University of California, San Francisco.



Dr. McLemore is recognized for her commitment to providing patient-centered abortion care. In addition to providing compassionate care to her own patients, McLemore played a key role in advancing a California law that allows certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to provide abortion care – an important precedent for the reproductive health field.

McLemore is committed to promoting reproductive justice among the public, her students, and policymakers. In 2017, Dr. McLemore educated U.S. Congressional leadership about the increasing rate of maternal mortality in this country, as well as the disproportionate rate of maternal deaths among women of color.

As an advocate for her fellow abortion care providers and for patients, Dr. McLemore was honored for her bold and public work to expose deceptive anti-abortion tactics. In 2018, she was the face and voice of ACN's California-based billboard campaign to #EndAbortionDeception.

ConwayStrategic is a communications firm made up of fearless advocates and communications experts who create research-driven communications and advocacy strategies to improve the public's understanding of complex issues.

ConwayStrategic works closely with Abortion Care Network to amplify the voices of independent abortion care providers, a vital and bold community whose voices are often excluded from conversations about abortion.

ConwayStrategic is recognized for their work to inform the public about independent abortion care providers, the important work they do, and the challenges they face. Over



the last 18 months, ConwayStrategic has worked with ACN to provide communications training and support to over 50 independent abortion care providers, resulting in over 120 mainstream media placements. Additionally, ConwayStrategic has provided behind-the-scenes expertise and support on four national public-facing campaigns, including Communities Need Clinics, the first-ever report on the state of independent providers in the United States. They have undertaken this work with passion, purpose, and a devotion to the voices of independent providers.

During the awards presentation, Abortion Care Network recognized ConwayStrategic for “doing the unseen work of swiveling the spotlight onto providers, of turning up the volume, and constructing platforms for providers to tell their stories.”

About Abortion Care Network: Abortion Care Network is a national, member-based nonprofit association dedicated to serving independent abortion care providers and their allies. ACN works to ensure the rights of all people to experience respectful, dignified abortion care.

- For more information, visit www.abortiocarenetwork.org.
- For media inquiries, contact ACN Communications Manager Jennifer Thibodeau at Jennifer@abortiocarenetwork.org or 202.419.1444.



Abortion Care Network

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