

# Dr. LaTonya D. Russell: 2025 Dr. Melvin T. Pinn, Jr. Quality Excellence Award Recipient

Sentara Health Plans is excited to announce Dr. LaTonya D. Russell as the recipient of the 2025 Dr. Melvin T. Pinn, Jr. Quality Excellence Award (QEA). The award is presented annually to one physician who demonstrates commitment to delivering quality care and outstanding service to the community while improving member outcomes.

Dr. Russell is a board-certified pediatrician who practices at Sentara Family Medicine Physicians & Pediatrics in Chesapeake, VA and is the current Director of Medical Operations for Sentara Community Care. She has dedicated her career to providing care and services to children and is a strong advocate for the underserved and underrepresented in the community.

Dr. Russell began her education at Johns Hopkins University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health & Spanish Language and Literature, followed by a Master of Public Health degree in Behavioral Science & Health Education at Emory University School of Public Health. She went on to earn her medical degree at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and completed her internship and residency at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Pediatrics department.

She and her father established a scholarship named after her grandparents - the Mary Russell & Lillie Brown Memorial Bicentennial Scholars Fund - to support medical students who are part of an underrepresented group within medicine who demonstrate financial need. She developed programs and protocols for vulnerable children during her tenure at Sentara's Community Care program. Dr. Russell partnered with REACH, Inc. of Norfolk to create the Sentara Community Care Center Literacy Program that distributes books to pediatric patients to develop a love of reading. Her involvement with establishing school-based virtual clinics to provide care and support for children in areas of highest need further demonstrates Dr. Russell's dedication and commitment to excellence.

As the recipient of the 2023 Sentara Golden Stethoscope Award, Dr. Russell was honored for the "outstanding patient experience she provides for her patient and their families." She has

received countless glowing patient reviews that are echoed in her nomination for the Dr. Melvin T. Pinn, Jr. Quality Excellence Award by a fellow physician for "always going above and beyond the norm" in caring for her patients.



This year marks the 19th anniversary of this esteemed award for its commitment to quality and excellence. Nominations are accepted throughout the calendar year and may be submitted by completing the nomination form located on the Sentara Health Plans website at the bottom of the member and provider page displayed as "Recognize an Outstanding Provider" or by using your device to capture the QR code below.

