

2023 Awards for Teaching Excellence Guidelines

Purpose The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence recognize, reward, and promote both excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. The NEA Foundation (NEAF or the Foundation) and National Education Association (NEA) present the awards jointly.

Eligibility All current members of an NEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible, including teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff. NEA state affiliates, the Federal Education Association, and direct affiliates may each submit one nomination per year. Only nominations submitted and endorsed by one of these affiliates will be considered. Should a nominee's NEA membership be discontinued between the date of their nomination and the NEA Foundation Gala, the nomination must be rescinded. In that instance, however, the state affiliate, Federal Education Association, or direct affiliate, will have the opportunity to submit a new nomination. NEAF—like NEA—does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. NEAF encourages NEA state leaders to consider awardees who reflect the diversity among NEA members.

Selection **AFFILIATE LEVEL**
Each NEA affiliate determines its own best process for selecting its California Casualty Awards for Teaching Excellence awardee and submits a single awardee's name and qualifications to the NEA Foundation, consistent with the criteria described below. A state affiliate cannot nominate the same educator more than once.

The Foundation encourages the nomination of teachers who may not yet have received an award to maximize the number of exceptional educators who are publicly recognized. State leadership may consider nominating the recipient of another local, district, state, or national award—including subject specific awards, advocacy awards, or national awards like the State Teacher of the Year Award, provided that the awardee is an NEA member.

NATIONAL LEVEL
A national selection panel chooses the five recipients of the Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence from among the affiliate awardees. The President and CEO of the NEA Foundation and the NEA President appoint these panelists.

The Horace Mann awardees will be invited for personal interviews with the national selection panel in August 2022 and based on these interviews, the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient will be chosen.

- Benefits** All California Casualty awardees receive expenses-paid travel to Washington, DC, for the NEA Foundation's *Salute to Excellence in Education Gala* in February. Five awardees are selected for the Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence and receive \$10,000 each plus expenses-paid travel for themselves and one guest. The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient, selected from the five Horace Mann awardees, receives \$25,000 in cash and a commemorative gift.
- Submission** All applications must be submitted on the online application system, which opens November 10, 2021, and closes May 2, 2022.
- Notification** The Foundation will notify all affiliate presidents and their awardees when Horace Mann awardees have been selected in Summer 2022.
- Criteria** Applications for the national awards are judged according to five criteria. Panelists rate state awardees on each criterion using the point value indicated below.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: The awardee demonstrates expertise, creativity, and innovation in their field. The awardee uses a variety of strategies to effectively address students' different learning styles and needs. **(15 points)**

ADVOCACY FOR THE PROFESSION: The awardee is a current, active member of the local, state, and/or national education association, and has assumed leadership roles at one or more of these levels. The awardee is an active member of other professional organizations and engages in activities that advance the profession and public education. The awardee speaks out on behalf of public education, educators, and students. **(15 points)**

ATTENTION TO EQUITY AND DIVERSITY: The awardee works to provide a learning environment that meets the needs of all students, regardless of differences. The awardee recognizes and explicitly addresses the full array of values, cultures, and experiences represented in our diverse modern society, through varied interactions with students. **(10 points)**

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: The awardee actively engages families to support student learning and success. The awardee is intentional in engaging the community to enhance student learning and success. **(5 points)**

LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The awardee continually engages in experiences to improve his or her practice and to gain new skills and knowledge. The awardee shares this new learning with colleagues in effective ways. The awardee's participation in and commitment to professional development has a visible impact on his or her institution, students, and community. **(5 points)**

Contents of Nomination Nomination packages must include the five items listed below. Formatting instructions are noted in italics for each section.

NOMINATION LETTER

The nomination letter from the state, federal, or direct affiliate president explains why the awardee deserves a national award. Alternatively, a local president can write the official nomination letter outlining the awardee's qualifications. If this approach is used, the state president should attach an additional page with one sentence certifying the nomination. *Three pages maximum, double-spaced, 12-point or larger type.*

RESUME

The resume provides a brief, factual overview of the awardee's career, including positions held, degrees attained, honors received, etc. The resume may also describe personal achievements or activities that are not noted elsewhere. *Two pages maximum.*

AWARDEE'S STATEMENT

The awardee's statement must be written by the awardee, as a first-person narrative. The statement should include specific examples to illustrate all five of the award criteria. The questions below do not need to be copied verbatim in the text. However, state awardees are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords related to the criteria to aid the panelists in their reading. *No more than 6 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font.*

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE:

- How have you grown as an educator throughout your career? Cite examples of ways you have developed your skills and/or adapted your practice over time. What strategies or methods do you use to support student learning and student success?
- Share a story about how your work has made a difference for a student or a group of students.

ADVOCACY FOR THE PROFESSION:

- How has your involvement in the National Education Association or NEA affiliate(s) contributed to your success as an educator? How would you persuade a new colleague to join or become more active in the association? In what other ways do you serve as an advocate for the profession and for public education? Please include examples.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Please describe how you build relationships and engage with family members to support student learning and success. How have you engaged the community to enrich students learning? How have you been intentional, engaging families and community members to

enhance student learning and student success? How do you build relationships with parents and community members? Please include examples.

LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- What experiences or activities have been most beneficial to your professional knowledge, skills, and practice? How have you contributed to the professional development of your colleagues? How has your professional growth made a difference for your school or university, your students, and your community? Please include examples.

ATTENTION TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE:

- How do you address issues of equity and diversity in your interactions with students? What is the result of such efforts? How does your approach to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice affect your work? Please include examples.

ENDORSEMENT LETTERS

Letters of endorsement are written by the awardee's local affiliate president, colleagues, current or former students, parents, or community members. Letters should be signed, if possible, and the salutation should address the NEA Foundation's national selection panel. *Up to three letters, two pages maximum each, double-spacing preferred. Letters must be submitted with all other materials.*

DIGITAL PHOTO

A JPEG photo (at least 72 pixels per inch and 400KB) of the state awardee should be uploaded as part of online the application. By submitting this photo and application, the awardee consents to the unlimited use by the NEA Foundation and/or the National Education Association (NEA) of his/her image in any form, including but not limited to, digital media, film, audio recording or still photography, in connection with any Foundation and/or NEA publicity or communications effort. These efforts may include, among other things, publications, videos, and websites.

The awardee agrees that the NEA Foundation and/or NEA may have unlimited use of any program information or text from communications that they submit, in connection with any Foundation and/or NEA publicity or communications efforts, as described above.

The NEA Foundation and/or NEA shall be under no obligation to use the awardee's materials in any way. The awardee further agrees that neither the NEA Foundation nor the NEA will compensate them financially or otherwise for the consents granted above.