

AEA Teacher of the Year Award

The **AEA Teacher of the Year Award** recognizes, rewards, and promotes excellence in teaching and advocacy for the association.

AWARD

State Level Award:

Yearly award the AEA Teacher of the Year. The recipient will receive a \$500 cash award and commemorative apple.

National Level Award:

All affiliate nominees receive *The I CAN Learn*[®]–NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence, which fund travel to the gala.

Each year, the five NEA finalists receive *The Horace Mann–NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence*, which include \$10,000 cash and expenses-paid travel to The NEA Foundation's annual *Salute to Excellence in Education* Gala in Washington, DC.

The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence is presented at the annual gala to one of the five national finalists. This award includes an additional \$25,000 in cash and a personalized commemorative gift.

ELIGIBILITY

State Level:

All current licensed (certified) members of an AEA local affiliate are eligible. Each AEA local affiliate, may submit one nomination per year. If a local has more than one possible nominee, then the local affiliate will determine the nominee. Only nominations submitted and endorsed by one of these affiliates will be considered.

National Level:

The national selection panel chooses the five recipients of *The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence* from among the affiliate awardees. Panelists are appointed by the President and CEO of the NEA Foundation and the President of the NEA.

The Horace Mann awardees will be invited for personal interviews with the national selection panel in July or August 2015 and based on the interviews, *The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence* recipient will be chosen.

CRITERIA

Applications for the state award are judged according to the following five criteria.

1. Professional Practice

The awardee demonstrates instructional expertise, creativity, and innovation. The awardee uses a variety of pedagogical techniques and effectively addresses students' different learning styles and needs. The awardee is an instructional leader at the local, state, and/or national level.

2. Advocacy for the Association

The awardee is a current, active member of the local, state, and 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.

3. Community Engagement

The awardee frequently interacts with parents and other community members on substantive education issues. The awardee brings community resources to the classroom and conducts service-learning projects with his or her students in the community.

4. 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 a variety of venues. The awardee's participation in and commitment to professional development has a visible impact on his or her institution, students, and community.

5. Attention to 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, both through curriculum and instruction and in other interactions with students.

Contents of Nomination:

Nomination file must include all of the materials listed below:

1. Data Sheet: 1 page, requests contact information for the local affiliate; the nominee; and the school system.
2. Nomination Letter: 3-page maximum, local president or his/her designee, addresses the award criteria outlined above citing as many specific examples as possible.
3. Resume: 1-page maximum, may be narrative or bulleted list or both.
4. Nominee's statement: 5-page maximum, must be written by the nominee as a first-person narrative. The statement includes specific examples to illustrate all five of the award criteria. The questions themselves do not need to be reproduced in the text; however, nominees are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords to aid the panelists in their reading.

- a. What do you consider to be the most successful innovation that you have introduced in your classroom or school? What strategies or methods do you use to ensure that all students achieve at a high level? How do you act as an instructional leader?
 - b. How has your involvement in the association 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?
 - c. What role(s) do you feel professional educators should play in the life of the community and why? Conversely, how can community resources enhance student learning, and why are they important?
 - d. 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? Include examples from your experiences.
 - e. How do you address issues of diversity in your curriculum and instruction and in other interactions with students, and what is the result of such efforts? How does your approach to diversity affect your work?
 - f. If you have not already done so, tell a story about how your approach to teaching made a difference for a student or a group of students.
 - g. What advice would you give to someone entering the profession on how to attain teaching excellence?
5. Letters of endorsement: 3 letters, 2-page maximum each, written by: a local affiliate president, colleagues, current or former students, parents, or community members. Letters must note how long the writer has known the nominee and in what capacity the writer is able to comment on the nominee's professional/association work. Letters should be signed, and the salutation should address the state affiliate selection committee.
 6. Evidence of Association participation: 2-page maximum; should include involvement in local, district, state and national affiliate activities. This includes but is not limited to positions held, committee/work team participation, delegate participation, professional development, presentations, and conferences attended.

Submission:

1. Deadline for submission is March 1. Must be received at AEA HQ by 5:00 p.m.
2. E-mail file preferred. No faxes accepted.
3. Include only the materials requested in these guidelines.
4. Photo is not mandatory but recommended. If submitted it must be a JPG photo file or original photo - no copied photos.
5. Send your nomination file to: AEA, Attention: Teacher of the Year, 1500 West 4th Street, Little Rock, AR, 72201.

A confirmation e-mail WILL be sent upon receipt.

If any questions, call AEA at 501-375-4611, Ext.100.

Application Checklist:

The application for the AEA Teacher of the Year Award consists of:

1. The DATA sheet
2. Nomination letter from local president
3. Resume
4. Nominee statement
5. Letters of endorsement
6. Evidence of Association participation

**Revised Criteria and Application Language
Approved by the AEA Board of Directors
January 23, 2016**

**ARKANSAS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD
DATA SHEET**

LOCAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION:	
Local President:	
Affiliate Name:	
Affiliate Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone Number:	
E-Mail:	
NOMINEE INFORMATION:	
Name:	
NEA ID #	
Nominee Home Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone Number:	
E-Mail:	
Nominee School Name:	
School Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Job Title:	
What do you teach:	Grade:
NOMINEE EMPLOYER INFORMATION:	
Superintendent/Institution President:	
District/Institution Name:	
District/Institution Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Principal Name:	
School/Institution Name:	
School/Institution Address:	
City, State, Zip:	

