

Call for Nominations

The NEA Foundation Awards For Teaching Excellence 2020

Presented jointly by
the NEA Foundation and
the National Education Association



Are you or someone you know:

**Attention all current
members of
VEA Local
Associations!**

- Creative
- Student-focused
- Diversity sensitive and supportive
- Dedicated to lifelong learning
- A teacher or education support professional
- An advocate for public education?



Teaching. Learning. Leading.

VEA will select one educator from among all Virginia nominees. The winner will receive the *VEA Award for Teaching Excellence*, which includes \$500 and recognition at the VEA Delegate Assembly in March 2019. That person will also be Virginia's nominee for the NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence.

Nominations are now being accepted and must be received by the Virginia Education Association by **Friday, February 15, 2019** to be considered.

Please go to www.veanea.org for more information.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence

Presented jointly by the NEA Foundation and the National Education Association (NEA), with additional support from NEA Member Benefits and the Horace Mann Educators Corporation.

Purpose: To recognize, reward, and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. They also honor public education and the dedicated members of the NEA. The award is presented jointly by the NEA Foundation and the National Education Association (NEA), with support from NEA Member Benefits and the Horace Mann Educators Corporation.

Awards: VEA will select one educator from among all Virginia nominees. The winner will receive the *VEA Award for Teaching Excellence* which includes \$500 and recognition at the VEA Delegate Assembly in March 2019. That person will also be Virginia's nominee for the NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence.

All national awardees receive expenses-paid travel to The NEA Foundation's Annual *Salute to Excellence in Education* Gala in February in Washington, DC. Five national finalists receive *The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence*, which includes expenses-paid travel for themselves and a guest and a \$10,000 cash award. *The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence* recipient is selected from among the five finalists and receives \$25,000 and a personalized commemorative gift.

Eligibility: All current members of a VEA local affiliate, including teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff, are eligible.

Additionally, the NEA Foundation -- 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. NEA Foundation encourages NEA state leaders to consider nominees who reflect the diversity among NEA members.

Nominations: VEA will submit **one** nomination from among all nominations received. The state affiliate cannot nominate the same educator more than once.

Deadline: **Friday, February 15, 2019 (received at the VEA headquarters by 4:30 p.m. EST)**

Notification: The VEA will notify all applicants and their local presidents of their status by March 1, 2019.

Opportunity: The VEA Award recipient is strongly encouraged to apply to the NEA Foundation's Global Learning Fellowship, a 12-month professional development experience to support educators as they cultivate global competence skills and build global lesson plans that are shared with educators around the world.

Selection: LOCAL LEVEL

To be considered by the State Selection Committee, a nomination packet *must* include a letter of endorsement from the nominee's local Association president.

STATE LEVEL

The VEA Instruction and Professional Development Committee will select one winner from the nominees. A state affiliate cannot nominate the same educator more than once.

NATIONAL LEVEL

The national selection panel chooses the five recipients of *The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence* from among the affiliate awardees. Panelists may include those appointed by the President and CEO of the NEA Foundation and the NEA President. The Horace Mann awardees will be invited for personal interviews with the national selection panel in August 2019 and, based on these interviews, the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient will be chosen. The Foundation will notify all affiliate presidents and the VEA nominee of his/her status by the end of August 2019.

Criteria: Nominations will be judged according to the five criteria listed below. Panelists rate nominees on each criterion using the point value indicated below.

1. **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE:** The nominee demonstrates instructional expertise, creativity, and innovation. The nominee uses a variety of pedagogical techniques and effectively addresses students' different learning styles and needs. The nominee is an instructional leader at the local, state, and/or national level. **(15 points)**
2. **ADVOCACY FOR THE PROFESSION:** The nominee 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 nominee is an active member of other professional organizations and engages in activities that advance the profession and public education. The nominee speaks out on behalf of public education, educators, and students. **(15 points)**
3. **ATTENTION TO DIVERSITY:** The nominee works to provide a learning environment that meets the needs of all students, regardless of differences. The nominee 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. **(10 points)**
4. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The nominee frequently interacts with parents and other community members on substantive education issues. The nominee brings community resources to the classroom and conducts service learning projects with his or her students in the community. **(5 points)**
5. **LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** The nominee continually engages in experiences to improve his or her practice and to gain new skills and knowledge. The nominee shares this new learning with colleagues in a variety of venues. The nominee'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 Package:

Nomination packages must include all of the items listed below, in the specified order. **Page limitations are noted for each section.** Nominations that do not conform to these guidelines will be disqualified.

A. DATA SHEET (ATTACHED) — **1 page maximum. The form must be typed.**

The data sheet requests contact information for the nominee and the nominee's local affiliate. **Handwritten data sheets will not be accepted.** General formatting specifications do not apply.

B. ENDORSEMENT LETTER — **maximum 3 pages, double-spaced, 12-point or larger type**

The endorsement letter **must be written by the local affiliate president.** This letter **should explain why the nominee deserves a national award while outlining the nominee's qualifications.** Address the letter to "The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence Panel." No street address section is required. **Alternatively, a local president can write the official nomination letter outlining the nominee's qualifications and the state president can attach an additional page with one sentence certifying the nomination.**

C. RÉSUMÉ — **maximum 2 pages**

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

D. NOMINEE'S STATEMENT — **3400 words maximum**

This statement 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 copied verbatim in the text. However, nominees are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords related to the criteria to aid the panelists in their reading.**

The nominee's statement must address the following topics:

1. What are the most successful innovations 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?

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2. How has your involvement in the National Education Association, Virginia Education Association, and/or local 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?
3. What community resources do you bring to the classroom to enhance your lessons and student achievement? What service learning projects have you conducted with your students to benefit the community?
4. 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.
5. How do you address issues of diversity in your curriculum and instruction and in other interactions with students? What is the result of such efforts? How does your approach to diversity affect your work?
6. 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.
7. What advice would you give to someone entering the profession on how to attain teaching excellence?

E. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION — UP TO 3 LETTERS, MAXIMUM 2 PAGES EACH, DOUBLE-SPACED PREFERRED

Up to three letters of recommendation for the nominee must be submitted with all other materials. The letters are written by the nominee's local president, colleagues, current or former students, parents, or community members.

Letters of recommendation 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 work. **All letters of recommendation must be signed and submitted as part of the nomination package.**

The letters should be addressed to "The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence." No street address section is required.

Submission Instructions:

1. Include **only** the materials requested in these guidelines.
2. Do **not** staple or bind the materials. Paper clips or binder clips are acceptable.
3. Do **not** use covers or other decorative packaging.
4. Mail one original, complete nomination package **for receipt at VEA's office by 4:30 PM, Friday, February 15, 2019**. Submissions by fax or e-mail are **not** permitted.

Send your nomination package to:

**Virginia Education Association
Sonia Lee
Attn: Award for Teaching Excellence
116 South Third Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

Questions?

Contact VEA at (800) 552-9554

Antoinette Rogers, Ph.D. at arogers@veanea.org or

Sonia Lee at slee@veanea.org

Checklist:

Before you mail,
please take time to be certain
you have followed the guidelines.

- A. DATA SHEET — **1 page**
- B. ENDORSEMENT LETTER — **maximum 3 pages**
(signed by the local president)
- C. RÉSUMÉ — **maximum 2 pages**
- D. NOMINEE'S STATEMENT — **3400 words maximum**
- E. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION —
maximum 6 pages (up to three letters,
maximum 2 pages each)

*** * * DO NOT FAX * * ***

THE NEA FOUNDATION AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE - PART A: DATA SHEET

State, Federal, or Direct Affiliate Information

President:

Affiliate Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Nominee Information

Nominee:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

School/Institution:

Work Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Job Title:

For teachers, what do you teach? Subject(s):

Grade(s):

Nominee Information Request (How would you describe yourself? Choose one or more from the following ethnic or racial groups.)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino (A person of Spanish culture or origin regardless of race)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- Other (Please specify): _____
- Prefer not to answer

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Nominee's Employer Information

Superintendent or Institution President:

District or Institution:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Principal or Dean:

School or College:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Local Affiliate Information

President:

Affiliate Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email: