

Call for Nominations



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, and
- An advocate for public education?

One educator will be selected 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 2021. 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, January 22, 2021 to be considered.

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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The VEA Award for Teaching Excellence

- Purpose:** To recognize, reward, and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. It also honors public education and the dedicated members of the VEA.
- 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 2021. That person will also be Virginia's nominee for the NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence.
- All national nominees 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.
- The VEA, like NEA, does not and shall not discriminate based on 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 to the *NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence* from among all nominations received for the *VEA Award for Teaching Excellence*. The state affiliate cannot nominate the same educator more than once.
- Deadline:** **Friday, January 22, 2021 (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 **February 19, 2021**.
- 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 for the NEA Foundation/Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence.
- NATIONAL LEVEL**
- The 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 2021, 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 2021.

Criteria:

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

1. **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE** - The nominee:
 - demonstrates expertise, creativity, and innovation in the field,
 - uses a variety of strategies to effectively address students' different learning styles and needs, and
 - is a 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,
 - is an active member of other professional organizations and engages in activities that advance the profession and public education, and
 - 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, and
 - 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)

4. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – The nominee:
 - is intentional, engaging family and community resources to enhance student learning and student success.
(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,
 - shares this new learning with colleagues in effective ways, and
 - participates in and is committed to professional development and has a visible impact on the institution, students, and community.
(5 points)

Contents of Nomination Package:

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

A. DATA SHEET (ATTACHED) — This is a separate fillable form.

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

B. ENDORSEMENT LETTER — 3-page maximum. Double-spaced, 12-point or larger font.

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 VEA Instruction and Professional Development Committee.

C. RÉSUMÉ — 2-page maximum.

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-word 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 committee in reading the narrative.

The nominee's statement must address the following topics:

1. How have you grown as an educator throughout your career? Cite several 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? How do you act as a leader?
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. Please describe how you have been intentional, engaging family and community resources to enhance student learning and student success. How do you build relationships with parents and community members?
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.
5. 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 affect your work?
6. If you have not already done so, tell a story about how your work has 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.**

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, January 22, 2021**. Submissions by fax or e-mail are **not** permitted.

**Virginia Education Association
Donna Hamilton
Attn: Award for Teaching Excellence
116 South Third Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

Questions?

Contact VEA at (800) 552-9554

Melinda Bright at mbright@veanea.org or

Donna Hamilton at dhamilton@veanea.org

Checklist: Before mailing, please be certain you have followed the guidelines.

- A. DATA SHEET — **separate fillable form**
- B. ENDORSEMENT LETTER — **maximum 3 pages** (signed by the local president)
- C. RÉSUMÉ — **maximum 2 pages**
- D. NOMINEE'S STATEMENT — **21,000 characters (about 3400 words) maximum**
- E. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION — **maximum 6 pages** (up to three letters, maximum 2 pages each)

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

VEA Award for Teaching Excellence: Data Form

Name:

Nominee Information	
Home Street Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Telephone	
Email	
School/Institution	
Work Street Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Telephone	
Email	
Job Title	
If teacher, what do you teach?	
Race/ethnicity	
Nominee's Employer Information	
Division or Institution	
Superintendent or President	
Telephone	
Email	
Principal or Dean	
Telephone	
Email	
Local Affiliate Information	
Local Affiliate Name	
President	
Telephone	
Email	