

# Hoosier Educator of the Year

## Award Guidelines

*Based on the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence*

**Application deadline: March 1**

### Purpose

This award recognizes an ISTA member who exemplifies professional practice, advocacy for the profession, attention to diversity, community engagement and leadership in professional development.

### Criteria

Nominations must be made by an ISTA member based on the following criteria. Selection committee members 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

Nomination submissions must include the items listed below. Formatting instructions are noted for each section, where applicable.

1. All requested contact information
2. Nominee's statement
3. Attachments: Nomination letter, resume and up to three endorsement letters

### Nominee's statement

3,400 words max

The nominee's 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 below do not need to be copied verbatim in the text. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords related to the criteria to aid the selection committee in their reading.

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?
2. How has your involvement in the National Education Association or Indiana State Teachers 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.



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?

## Attachments

1. **Nomination letter: Three pages max, double-spaced, 12-point or larger font.**
2. **Resume: Two pages max.** The resume provides a brief, factual overview of the applicant's career, including positions held, degrees attained, honors received, etc. The resume may also describe personal achievements or activities that are not noted elsewhere.
3. **Endorsement letters: Up to three letters, two-pages max each, double-spaced preferred. Letters must be submitted with all other materials.** Letters of endorsement are written by the nominee's local affiliate president, colleagues, current or former students and parents or community members. Letters should be signed, if possible, and the salutation should address the ISTA Professional Practices and Standards Committee or the national selection panel for The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence.

## Selection

The Hoosier Educator of the Year will be awarded at an ISTA event.

