



2025 NEA AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Application Deadline:
Must be received at MFPE by April 1, 2024.

- Purpose** The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence recognize, reward, and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. The NEA Foundation and NEA present the award jointly.
- Eligibility** Active members of the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) working in public education are eligible, including teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff.
- Selection** MFPE's Foundation, the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation, pursuant to the selection process outlined herein, selects an MFPE awardee and submits the awardee's name and qualifications to the NEA Foundation.

The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation may consider nominating a recipient of another local, state, or national award-including subject specific awards, advocacy awards, or national awards like the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching.

The Montana Professional Teaching Foundation will honor MFPE's awardee at the annual Celebration of Teaching Dinner, Thursday evening, October 17, 2024, during the MFPE Educator Conference in Bozeman. The recipient of this significant award and recognition must be able to participate in the Celebration of Teaching event. No exceptions.

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

Horace Mann awardees will be invited for personal interviews with the national selection panel in August 2024. Based on these interviews, the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient will be chosen.

Benefits In addition to being honored at MFPE’s annual Montana Teacher Celebration, MFPE’s awardee will receive a cash prize and an expenses-paid travel with a guest of choice to Washington DC for the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in February 2025.

Each of the five awardees selected for the Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence will receive \$10,000 each plus expenses-paid travel for themselves and a guest.

The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient, selected from the five Horace Mann awardees, will receive \$25,000 in cash and a commemorative gift.

Notification The NEA Foundation will notify state affiliate presidents and awardees of Horace Mann awardees by the end of August 2024.

Criteria Applications for these national awards are judged according to five criteria. Panelists rate state awardees on each criterion using the point value indicated below.

1) **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)**

2) **ADVOCACY FOR THE PROFESSION:** The awardee is an 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)**

3) **COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE:** 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)**

4) **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)**

5) **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 all of the items listed below. Formatting instructions are noted for each section.

A) DATA SHEET

The data sheet requests contact information for the state, federal, or direct affiliate and the awardee.

One page maximum. The form must be typed.

B) 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.

C) AWARDEE'S STATEMENT

The awardee's statement must be written by the awardee, as

Up to 7 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font.

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, state awardees are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords related to the criteria to aid the panelists in their reading.

Professional Practice:

- 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?
- 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.

D) 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.

Submission 1) All affiliate nominations must be submitted to the NEA Foundation's online application system. MFPE will complete the application online for the awardee. The awardee is responsible to complete and send electronically the following: Data Sheet, Resume, Awardee Statement and Letters of Endorsement. MFPE will provide the Nomination Letter.

Email application to dgraveley@mfpe.org

- Checklist**
- 1) Data Sheet (see page six) **1 - 2 pages**
 - 2) Resume **2 pages maximum**
 - 3) Awardee's Statement **12 point font, single-spaced, 7 pages max**
 - 4) Letters of Endorsement **6 pages maximum, double-spacing preferred**

Addendum Digital Photo: Please upload a JPEG photo (at least 72 pixels per inch and 400KB) of the state awardee electronically when you submit the application online.

Questions? Call or e-mail Donna Graveley (406-442-4250 or dgraveley@mfpe.org).

The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence Data Sheet

State, Federal, or Direct Affiliate Information

President:

Affiliate

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Awardee Information

Awardee:

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):

Awardee 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:

Awardee'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: