NEA Student Program Awards

2016-2017 Application

Revised March 2017
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

NEA SP Awards Information – page 1 - 2  
Submission Guidelines and Recommendations – page 3  
Feedback Form – page 20

**LOCAL CHAPTER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

New Local Chapter Recognition – page 4  
Local Excellence in Social Justice – page 5  
Outstanding Local Advisor Award – page 6  
Jeffrey “J.D.” Miller Outstanding Underclassman Award – page 7  
Outstanding Local Leader Award – page 8  
Local Excellence Award – pages 9-10

**STATE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

State Achievement Recognition – page 11  
State Excellence in Social Justice – page 12  
Outstanding State Organizer Award – page 13  
Outstanding State Student Leader Award – page 14  
State Excellence Award – pages 15-16

**ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Jack Kinnaman Scholarship  
Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award

Highest Increase in Number of Members (no application)  
Highest Percentage Membership Increase (no application)

*PAC Fundraising Certificates to be provided for the following (no application):  
PAC Fundraising – Highest Number of Contributors  
PAC Fundraising – Highest Amount Raised Per Member  
PAC Fundraising – Award Highest Amount Raised

*PAC fundraising based on online contributions to the Awards Dinner Celebration, PAC Fundraisers (i.e. Photo Booth, Headshots, State Silent Auction Baskets, Lip Sync, etc.)
The NEA Student Program Core Values – Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, and Political Action – are the underlying areas of focus that direct Student Program activities. It is in these areas that our members and affiliates sponsor programs, educate on issues, and affect change.

**Teacher Quality** encompasses pre-professional development and job preparation. At local meetings and workshops, state conferences, and national symposiums, our members encounter professional development opportunities: guest speakers on classroom management, experts on testing and practitioners sharing tips on smoothly running science labs. Job preparation comes in the form of resume workshops, portfolio tutorials, mock interviews and new teacher panels. Student Program publications and websites share *teacher quality* information relevant to our members, including certification requirements and resources for working with special needs children. Student members and chapters partner with Local Associations to enhance in-the-classroom opportunities and secure “real world” insights into the education profession. Students shape their college curriculum by serving as change-agents on boards and committees. Our members’ involvement in the NEA Student Program increases their ability to become quality teachers.

**Community Outreach** describes how NEA Student Program members engage the people and environment around them; we impact our communities – locally and globally – and value the mutual relationship which prepares us to support our students through the communities which support them. Our members learn about communicating with parents, partner with local businesses, and find grant support through Chamber of Commerce consortia. We design and implement projects as diverse as after-school tutoring programs, learning carnivals, and Senior Citizen dances. New teachers who are NEA Student Program Alumni are more successful in helping their students achieve because they know how reaching out to the community provides them access to material and human resources. Further, getting involved in local communities means supporting our students through their homes, through the people and businesses which they interact, and preparing ourselves to be community leaders as educators.

**Political Action** includes the knowledge, advocacy, and action around political and legislative issues which impact public education. We celebrate issue awareness around vouchers and charter schools, state-mandated certification issues, and new teacher rights. We share information with peers, family and community around how legislative decision making impact our communities, schools, classrooms, and students. We sponsor voter registrations, get-out-the-vote activities, contact elected officials, help elect pro-public education officials, and lobby our local, state and national legislators. By educating each other, organizing activities and publicizing our involvement, we are making an impact in education politics.

Social Justice refers to a concept in which unequal opportunities are brought to light and equitable opportunities are sought after for groups which have been systematically oppressed, restricted, and discriminated for a more just society. The NEA Student Program has taken a charge on tackling the immense occurrence of social justice and institutional racism to create awareness and promote activism around the issue. The NEA Student Program recognizes Student Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities. Social Justice action and advocacy is a priority of the National Education Association and chapters which have shown knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around this priority will be recognized.

See Submission and Guidelines Recommendations on page 4 for information on Awards evaluations. Awards grading criteria, rubrics, and evaluation process by the Advisory Committee of Student Members may be found on the NEA Student Program Awards Evaluation Process Document.

---

**NEA Student Program Awards 2016-2017**

Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2017.

Send applications to NEA Student Program, 1201 16th St NW, Washington DC 20036 or Fax: 202-822-7624 or Email: amuscarella@nea.org
The NEA Student Program encourages its members to apply and/or nominate those individuals and/or affiliates that have excelled during the current academic year.

- Distribution of the awards packet is done through the Student Program state affiliates. Applications can be accessed directly via the NEA Student Program web page at http://www.nea.org/home/20268.htm no later than March 15.
- All nominations and supporting documents must be submitted, postmarked, or received in the NEA Student Program office or appropriate email address on or before May 15th. Information is encouraged to be submitted electronically. Each application must be complete including all supporting documentation (such as letters of recommendation).
- May 15, 2017 will be the last date for hard copy/binder submissions of any awards. The awards session in the subsequent term (2017 – 2018) will only be accepted via an online format (online portfolio, website, brochures, videos, etc.)
  - Online submission may be submitted for multiple awards (i.e. same webpage for multiple submissions). The specific link to the page must be included in the award submission.
    - A chapter may apply for the Local Excellence Award in addition to other awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the Local Excellence in Social Justice Award.
    - A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice Award.
- Winning entries will be announced at the NEA Student Program Honors Dinner, held in June at the site of the NEA Student Leadership and Professional Issues Conference (SLC).
- Following the SLC, all nomination will be featured on the NEA Student Program Website.

All applications, nominations and supporting documents must be submitted, postmarked, or received in the NEA Student Program office or appropriate email addresses on or before May 15th. Submitters may consider mailing materials with a return receipt request to ensure your application arrives at the NEA Building or directly submitting online format of awards applications. All questions may be directed to the NEA Student Program Chairperson. Please send entries and/or questions to:

Ashley Muscarella, Chairperson
NEA Student Awards
1201 16th Street, NW Suite 310
Washington, D.C.  20036-3290
Phone: 202/706-8626
Fax: 202/822-7624
E-Mail: amuscarella@nea.org

http://www.nea.org/home/20268.htm
Application will be available online no later than May 15th.
Best Practices for NEA Student Program Awards Submissions

A Note from the Advisory Committee of Student Members

When working on your application, it would be helpful to remember the following:

- Make sure you include our three core values, Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, and Political Action, and the National Education Association’s charge on Social Justice!
  - This is a celebration of the incredible work we are doing within our chapters and states, now is the time to celebrate and show off.
  - Show us how YOUR local or state exemplifies the NEA Student Program spirit!
- The National Education Association Student Program Chair’s Advisory Committee of Student Members (ACSM) will be judging almost all of the award submissions (listed on page two).
  - This is a dedicated group of YOUR peers, selected by the NEA Student Program Chair, to represent our voice as Aspiring Educators on a national level.
  - These students represent all regions, backgrounds, and content in the field of education.
  - No personal relationships will impact the grading criteria or selection applicants.
- Show us your creative side!
  - As educators, we know that all students learn differently. Show us how you differentiate!
  - We cannot wait to see what you come up with, and share it with Aspiring Educators from across the country!
  - All award applications will be featured on the NEA Student Program Website to inspire and assist growing chapters and states around incredible projects and events other members are doing across the country!
- Remember that this all will be shared – please make sure you edit your work!
- Each award MUST be submitted as 1 package or email by May 15th, 2017. No exceptions!
  - An award application will not be considered if the package is incomplete.
- When applying for the Local or State Excellence Award, be sure to consider submitting the separate core values and social justice work to each specific category
  - You will build stronger applications when you build off what you already have
- The 2016-2017 Advisory Committee of Student Members cannot wait to see what our amazing peers are doing across the country to strengthen and grow ourselves, our schools, communities, and the National Education Association Student Program in your state!
New Local Chapter Recognition

The NEA Student Program New Local Chapter Recognition is designed to highlight the effort and dedication that comprise the organization of a new local Student Program chapter.

The specific guidelines of new chapter status vary by state. Therefore, the NEA Student Program will recognize new chapters that have been recognized by their state Student Program as being initiated during the current awards year. NOTE: This does not include chapters that are “revitalized.”

States will be recognized as Bronze (One new chapter), Silver (Two new chapters), Gold (Three new chapters), and Platinum (Four or more new chapters) status and awarded for their efforts to increase membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Chapter Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Chapter Location (city, state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Chapter Officers (name, title)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members (#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Chapter Activities (in brief)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital submission URL/ link:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verification by State Organizer: (confirmation letter or signature)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

NEA Student Program Awards 2016-2017
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2017.
Send applications to NEA Student Program, 1201 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036 or Fax: 202-822-7624 or Email: amuscarella@nea.org
The NEA Student Program Local Excellence Award recognizes Local Student Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities. Social Justice action and advocacy is a priority of the National Education Association and chapters which have shown knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around this priority will be recognized.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials may be organized in online/digital/multimedia formats (preferred) or binders (1-inch maximum). Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of Social Justice related activities and impact statements. Please do not include originals. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively display and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

**Organization and Infrastructure**
- How did your chapter recruit a diverse membership (people of color, male-female, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional student status, class standing, etc…)?
- How would your chapter define Social Justice?
- How has your chapter recruited members through your Social Justice activities?

**Teacher Quality**
- How does your chapter exemplify the importance of Social Justice in public education?
- How has the Social Justice Activities you offer have helped better prepare your student members for the classroom?

**Community Outreach**
- What has your chapter done to engage around issues impacting the community?
- How has your chapter partnered with other organizations around Social Justice?

**Political Action**
- What Social Justice knowledge, advocacy, and action opportunities has your chapter provided?

University name

State Association

Digital submission URL/link:

Nominator

Address

Phone number

E-mail address

*A chapter may apply for the Local Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the Local Excellence in Social Justice.

NEA Student Program Awards 2016-2017
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2017.
Send applications to NEA Student Program, 1201 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036 or Fax: 202-822-7624 or Email: annscarlile@nea.org
The NEA Student Program Outstanding Local Advisor Award recognizes an individual for dedication and service to the NEA Student Program at the local level.

The nominator may submit a 1-2 page essay or digital media project. In the application, please answer all of the questions below to highlight the Local Advisor’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of the Student local.

- In what ways has the Advisor supported the chapter leaders and members?
- How has the Advisor advocated for the student program with other faculty/administration on campus?
- How has the Advisor demonstrated open communication with campus leadership?
- Describe at least one situation where the Advisor demonstrated his/her commitment to the chapter.

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals other than the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominee’s Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Local</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of State Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital submission URL/link:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NEA Student Program Jeffrey “J.D.” Miller Outstanding Underclassman Award recognizes a freshman or sophomore who has achieved excellence throughout the year by providing leadership to the Local Student Program.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay or digital media presentation. In the application, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the Local Underclassman’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of the local Student Program.

- Specifically, how has the student helped the chapter?
- In what professional development, leadership development, and teacher quality activities has the student participated?
- What has been the student’s impact on chapter members or in the community?
- In what ways does the student stand out from other underclassmen on campus?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals other than the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.
The NEA Student Program Outstanding Local Leader Award recognizes an individual who has acted as an integral leader in building their local chapter to achieve excellence. This person has achieved, demonstrated, and inspired outstanding leadership to their Local Student Program.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay or digital media presentation. In the application, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the Local Leader’s outstanding qualities and actions? Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of the local Student Program.

- How has the student leader increased membership numbers and member participation on campus?
- In what professional and leadership development activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Teacher Quality)
- In what community service activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Community Service)
- In what civic engagement/political activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Political Action)
- What specifically has the student leader done to provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?
- In what ways has the student leader developed a team dedicated to member success on campus?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals other than the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominee’s Name (self-nominations accepted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Local Student Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of State Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominee’s address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominee’s e-mail address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital submission URL/ link:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This award was created to celebrate the excellence exemplify within their states and chapters by both elected and non-elected leaders. Nominees do not need to hold elected leadership positions, they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.

NEA Student Program Awards 2016-2017
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2017.
Send applications to NEA Student Program, 1201 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036 or Fax: 202-822-7624 or Email: amuscarella@nea.org
The NEA Student Program Local Excellence Award recognizes Local Student Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities within in three core value areas: teacher quality, community outreach and political action.

For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on membership; please mark the appropriate category for the nominated local.

- Locals with 100 or fewer members
- Locals with 101-200 members
- Locals with 201 or more members

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials may be organized in online/ digital/ multimedia formats (preferred) or binders (1-inch maximum). Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of activities and impact statements. Please do not include originals. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively answer, display, and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

Organization and Infrastructure
- What strategies does your chapter use to recruit members?
- Has your chapter increased membership? If yes, how? If no, what would you change?
- How did your chapter recruit a diverse membership?
(People of color, male-female, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional student status, class standing, etc…)
- How does your chapter communicate with its members and potential members?

Teacher Quality
- What professional development, leadership development, and education engagement opportunities has your chapter provided?
- How have your chapter’s Teacher Quality workshops reflected your community?
- How have the teacher quality workshops your chapter offers better prepare Aspiring Educators for the classroom?

Community Outreach
- What has your chapter done to engage around issues impacting the community?
- How has your chapter partnered with other organizations to provide activities?
- How do you gain media attention for your community service projects?
- How do you know your projects have made a difference in the community?

Political Action
- How would your chapter define political action?
- In what political activities has your chapter been involved?
- How do you exemplify to members the importance of politics as an aspiring educator?
- How has the Professional Development, Community Service, and Social Justice Activities you offer have helped better prepare your student members for the classroom?
### Local Excellence Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Student Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Local with 100 or fewer members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Local with 101-200 members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Local with 201 or more members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital submission URL/link:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A chapter may apply for the Local Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the Local Excellence in Social Justice.*
The NEA Student Program State Achievement Recognition is designed to highlight the effort and dedication of a project which a state affiliate has exerted to focus, highlight, or expand the work surrounding its Student Program. This recognition is designed to celebrate the achievements of an affiliate in: establishing or revitalizing its student program, success in a Student Member campaign, etc.

All applications will be recognized for the work and dedication which a state has exerted to celebrate and support Student Members.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials may be organized in online/ digital/ multimedia formats (preferred) or binders (1-inch maximum). Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects publicity, event depictions of activities and impact statements. Please do not include originals. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively answer, display, and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

Applications should exemplify excellence achieved throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities within in three core value areas: teacher quality, community outreach and political action. In addition, applications should include a confirmation letter by the State Student Organizer.

**Organization and Infrastructure**
- What was the intent of this event/ project? Was it achieved?
- How has this event/ project increased, highlighted, or celebrate Student Membership?
- How were Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, Political Action, and Social Justice professional and leadership development provided?

Title of Project
Name of State Association
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number
E-mail address

*A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice.*
STATE EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

The NEA Student Program State Excellence in Social Justice Award recognizes State Affiliates that have achieved excellence by providing members with teacher quality, community outreach, and political action around social justice issues. Social Justice action and advocacy is a priority of the National Education Association and states which have shown knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around this priority will be recognized.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials may be organized in online/ digital/ multimedia formats (preferred) or binders (1-inch maximum). Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of Social Justice related activities and impact statements. Please do not include originals. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively display and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

**Organization and Infrastructure**
- How did your state recruit a diverse membership (people of color, male-female, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional student status, class standing, etc...)?
- How would your state define Social Justice?
- How has your state recruited members through your Social Justice activities?

**Teacher Quality**
- How does your state exemplify the importance of Social Justice in public education?
- How has the Social Justice Activities you offer have helped better prepare your student members for the classroom?

**Community Outreach**
- What has your state done to engage around Social Justice issues impacting the state?
- How has your state partnered with other organizations around Social Justice?

**Political Action**
- What Social Justice knowledge, advocacy, and action opportunities has your state provided?

State Association

Digital submission URL/ link:

Nominator

Address

Phone number

E-mail address

*A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice.

NEA Student Program Awards 2016-2017
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2017.
Send applications to NEA Student Program, 1201 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036 or Fax: 202-822-7624 or Email: annsecarella@nea.org
The NEA Student Program Outstanding State Organizer Award recognizes an individual for dedication and service to the NEA Student Program at the state level.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the State Organizer’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of the State Student Program.

- In what ways has the Organizer supported student members and leaders?
- How has the Organizer advocated for the student program with the state or national association?
- How has the Organizer demonstrated open communication with members and leaders?
- Describe at least one strong example which demonstrates their commitment to the Student Program.

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals other than the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominee’s name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of State Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital submission URL/link:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NEA Student Program Outstanding State Student Leader Award recognizes an individual who has achieved excellence throughout the year by providing excellent leadership to the State Student Program.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the State Student Leader’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of the state Student Program.

- How has the student leader increased membership numbers and member participation on campus?
- In what professional and leadership development activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Teacher Quality)
- In what community service activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Community Service)
- In what civic engagement/political activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Political Action)
- What specifically has the student leader done to provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?
- In what ways has the student leader developed a team dedicated to member success?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals other than the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee’s name (self-nominations accepted)
Name of State Association
Nominee’s address
Nominee’s e-mail address
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number
E-mail address

*This award was created to celebrate the excellence exemplify within their states and chapters by both elected and non-elected leaders. Nominees do not need to hold elected leadership positions, they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.

NEA Student Program Awards 2016-2017
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2017.
Send applications to NEA Student Program, 1201 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036 or Fax: 202-822-7624 or Email: amuscarella@nea.org
The NEA Student Program State Excellence Award recognizes State Student Affiliates that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities within in three core value areas: teacher quality, community outreach and political action.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials may be organized in online/ digital/ multimedia formats (preferred) or binders (1-inch maximum). Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of activities and impact statements. Please do not include originals. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively display and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

**Organization and Infrastructure**
- What strategies does your state use to recruit members?
- Has your state increased membership? If yes, how? If no, what would you change?
- How did your state recruit a diverse membership?
  (People of color, male-female, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional student status, class standing, etc…)
- How does your state communicate with its members and potential members?

**Teacher Quality**
- What professional development, leadership development, and education engagement opportunities has your state provided?
- How have the Teacher Quality workshops your state offers better prepare Aspiring Educators for the classroom?

**Community Outreach**
- What has your state done to engage around issues impacting state climate?
- How has your state partnered with other organizations to provide activities?
- How do you gain media attention for your community service projects?
- How do you know your projects have made a difference in the community?

**Political Action**
- How would your state define political action?
- In what political activities has your state been involved?
- How do you exemplify to members the importance of politics as an aspiring educator?
- How has the Professional Development, Community Service, and Social Justice Activities you offer have helped better prepare your student members for the classroom?
### NEA State Excellence Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Association</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital submission URL/ link:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice.*
The NEA Student Program modified the Awards applications for the 2016-2017 year. Please share your input with us so that we can continue our improvements.

Submit this feedback along with your application, or under separate cover.

1. Which award application(s) did you complete?
2. What did you like best about the NEA Student Program?
3. As you completed the application, in what areas did you have questions or encounter a lack of clarity?
4. What would make the application and packet more user-friendly?
5. Are there criteria that you feel should be incorporated into the awards applications?
6. How might the application process be improved?
7. How is NEA/ your Affiliate supporting you in achieving excellence as these awards indicate?
8. How could NEA/ your Affiliate do better in supporting you?
9. Did you apply for a new listed award?
10. What did you like best about the changes to the NEA Student Program Awards?