

Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award

Ellison S. Onizuka (1946-1986) was a Japanese American aerospace engineer. The first Asian/Pacific Islander chosen by NASA for the astronaut program, Onizuka served as a mission specialist on the space shuttle Challenger, which exploded on January 28, 1986, killing all aboard. Onizuka credited Hawaii's public schools for encouraging students to set goals and to work hard to achieve them.

NEA presents the Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award to a nominee whose activities in Asian/Pacific Islander affairs have made a significant impact on education and the achievement of equal opportunity for Asians/Pacific Islanders.

To be eligible for this award, the nominee must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Increase the public's understanding of and appreciation for the heritage of Asian/Pacific Islanders.
2. Develop and implement a bilingual, multicultural educational program that impacts a school system or a large portion of a community.
3. Lobby for legislation that positively affects Asian/Pacific Islanders.
4. Work actively with a community to improve opportunities for Asians/Pacific Islanders.
5. Help schools develop programs that enhance the education of Asian/Pacific Islander children.

**Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award
Criteria Eligibility Form**

Explain how your nominee meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. *Increase the public's understanding of and appreciation for the heritage of Asian and Pacific Islanders.*

2. *Develop and implement a bilingual, multicultural educational program that impacts a school system or a large portion of a community.*

3. *Lobby for legislation that positively affects Asians and Pacific Islanders.*

4. *Work actively with a community to improve opportunities for Asian and Pacific Islanders.*

5. *Help schools develop programs that enhance the education of Asian and Pacific Islander children.*