NEA ESP OF THE YEAR AWARD

OVERVIEW

Purpose: The National Education Association (NEA) Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year Award recognizes the contributions that Education Support Professionals make toward their schools, communities, and professions. The award is presented to a member of the NEA who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments and reflects the contributions of ESP to public education. The award is presented jointly by the NEA and NEA Member Benefits.

Award: Each year, one nominee receives the NEA ESP of the Year Award. The winner of the 2020 NEA ESP of the Year Award will receive a $10,000 personal cash prize courtesy of NEA Member Benefits and will also be funded by NEA to attend the following year’s NEA ESP Conference. The winner may also be invited to address the NEA Representative Assembly.

Eligibility: All current ESP members of an NEA local affiliate or bargaining unit who have been NEA members for at least three years as of December 31, 2019 and who are currently active are eligible. Individuals must be nominated by their state affiliate through a state ESP award program or by their local association if a state award program does not exist.

Nominations: State Affiliates: Each state affiliate may submit only one nominee through its state ESP award program. A state ESP award program is defined as one developed by a state affiliate that solicits nominations from local affiliates and then selects one statewide award nominee. Criteria for the state award may be designed by the individual state affiliate but must not conflict with the national award’s criteria and purpose. All state affiliates are strongly encouraged to submit a nomination.

Local Affiliates: If a state affiliate does not have an ESP award program in place, then local affiliates may submit only one nomination directly to NEA. Local affiliates are encouraged to send a copy of their nominations to the state affiliate.

NEW! Electronic Submission: This year all nomination forms are electronic. Hard copy nominations will NOT be accepted. There are five (5) required forms, including:

1. Nomination Form (to be completed by the nominee);
2. State Affiliate Acknowledgement Form (to be completed by the State Affiliate President); and
3. Three (3) Letter of Recommendation Forms.

Nominees must also submit one high-resolution photo via email.
Important: The form is limited in capacity to check for spelling and grammatical errors and does not allow you to save and then edit or complete at a later date. Nominees are strongly encouraged to print a copy of the sample forms and complete them separately in a word document. Once complete, the responses should be copied and pasted into the electronic form.

Selection/Criteria: The NEA ESP of the Year Selection Committee will review all nominations to ensure that eligibility and submission requirements are met. They will also score the nomination using the ESP of the Year award criteria. Nominations will be rated on a scale of 1 to 5 for each criterion, where “1” represents minimal evidence of the criterion, and “5” represents very strong evidence of the criterion. The total maximum number of points a nominee can receive is 25.

- Professional Practice (5 points)
- Member Advocacy and Association Involvement (5 points)
- Community Engagement (5 points)
- Personal Achievement (5 points)
- Enhancement of ESP Image (5 points)

The NEA ESP of the Year Selection Committee will forward its recommendation to the NEA president who will then present the recommendation to the NEA Executive Committee for consideration and action.

Disqualification: Nominations will be automatically disqualified if:
1. The nomination is not submitted electronically using the required forms;
2. the State Affiliate Acknowledgment Form is not completed and submitted by the affiliate president (or Local president only if it is a Local nomination)
3. the nomination is received after the deadline;
4. the nomination includes handwritten documents, clippings, news articles or photos (other than the required promotional photo).

Notification: The NEA ESP of the Year Award recipient will remain confidential until the 2020 NEA ESP National Conference, which takes place March 20-22 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award will be presented to the winner during the ESP of the Year Awards banquet on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Each nominee is invited to attend the conference in its entirety at NEA’s expense (in accordance with NEA policy). In addition, each nominee will receive one complimentary guest ticket for the awards banquet.

Questions: Contact Lisa Connor at Lconnor@nea.org / (202) 822-7529 or Dorothy Vu at Dvu@nea.org / (202) 822-7551

All forms are available electronically at http://www.nea.org/espoty

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Must be received at NEA Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, December 9, 2019