TABLE OF CONTENTS

Awards and Recognition Information

NEA Aspiring Educators Core Values ................................................................. 2
NEA Aspiring Educators Award Submission Guidelines ....................................... 3
Best Practices for NEA Aspiring Educators Award Submissions ............................ 4
Feedback Form ....................................................................................................... 29

Organization Recognitions

Local Excellence Recognition .................................................................................. 6
State Excellence Recognition .................................................................................... 8

Organization Awards

Aspiring Educator Achievement Award .................................................................. 11
*Highlights a specific event, project, or initiative*

The #RedForEd Award ............................................................................................ 13
*Highlights how members build support for public education and the labor movement*

The #AspiringEdLife Award .................................................................................... 15
*Highlights how members build support for aspiring educators*

Individual Awards

Outstanding Local Leader Award .......................................................................... 18
Outstanding State Leader Award ........................................................................... 20
Distinguished Local Advisor Award ........................................................................ 22
Distinguished State Organizer Award ....................................................................... 24
Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award ...................................................................... 26

Additional Awards and Certificates

NEA Retired Jack Kinnaman Scholarship ............................................................... 28
Highest Increase in Number of Members *(no application)*
Highest Percentage Membership Increase *(no application)*
New Chapter Recognition *(no application)*

NEA Aspiring Educators Recognition 2019-2020
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 1, 2020.
Email: aspiringed@nea.org
NEA Aspiring Educators Core Values

The NEA Aspiring Educators Core Values—Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, and Social Justice—direct Aspiring Educators activities. It is in these areas that our members and affiliates sponsor programs, educate on issues and effect change.

**Educator Quality** encompasses how aspiring educators practice professional learning and gain insight on career preparation at local meetings and workshops, state conferences, and national symposiums. NEA shares resources on information relevant to members, including certification requirements and resources for working with diverse learners. Aspiring Educators members and chapters partner with local associations to enhance in-the-classroom opportunities and secure real-world insights into the education profession. Aspiring Educators shape their college curriculum by serving as change-agents on boards and committees. Involvement in the NEA Aspiring Educators Program enhances and strengthens the professional expertise of pre-service educators prior to entering the profession.

**Community Engagement** describes how NEA Aspiring Educators members engage the people and environment around them. Members of the NEA Aspiring Educators Program seek to have impact – locally and globally -- and value the mutual relationship which prepares them to support their future students through the communities that support them. Members learn about communicating with families, partnering with local businesses, and establishing mutual support through Chamber of Commerce consortiums. They design and implement projects such as after-school tutoring programs, learning carnivals, and senior citizen dances. Getting involved in local communities means supporting students where they live, through the people and businesses they interact with daily, and preparing Aspiring Educators to not only be outstanding professionals, but community leaders.

**Political Action** includes the knowledge, advocacy, and action around political and legislative issues in public education. NEA Aspiring Educators elevate issue awareness around vouchers and charter schools, state-mandated certification issues, and new educator rights and supports. Members share information with peers, families, and communities around how legislative decision making affects pre-service educators, communities, students, and schools. NEA Aspiring Educator Chapters sponsor voter registrations, get-out-the-vote activities, contact elected officials, help elect pro-public education officials, and lobby at the local, state, and national levels in government. By educating their colleagues, organizing activities and publicizing their involvement, Aspiring Educators create a lasting impact on education politics.

**Social Justice** refers to a sustained and intentional focus on building a more just and equal society by bringing inequality, discrimination, and oppression to light and helping traditionally marginalized groups gain access to opportunity. NEA Aspiring Educators are committed to tackling the immense occurrence of social injustice and institutional racism in their communities to create awareness and promote activism to eradicate the problem. Aspiring Educators chapters demonstrate their collective knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around one of NEA’s top priority issues, social and racial justice.
NEA Aspiring Educators Award Submission Guidelines

NEA Aspiring Educators encourages its members to apply and/or nominate those individuals and/or affiliates that have excelled during the current academic year.

- Applications can be accessed directly via the NEA Aspiring Educators webpage at [http://www.nea.org/aspiringeducator](http://www.nea.org/aspiringeducator) no later than March 15, 2020.
- All nominations and supporting documents must be submitted to the appropriate email address on or before May 1, 2020. Each application must be electronically submitted including all supporting documentation (such as letters of recommendation).
- Supporting documentation 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.
- Winning entries will be announced at the NEA Aspiring Educators Recognition Dinner, which will be held in June 2020 at the NEA Aspiring Educators Conference (AEC).

Applications and Recognitions:

*Recognitions will be awarded to those chapters/programs that meet the criteria. In order to recognize multiple diverse chapters and programs, all that submit a recognition application and exemplify excellence throughout the year will receive this recognition.*

*Awards will be given to a limited number of applicants per category.*

Please send entries to:
NEA Aspiring Educators Program
Email: AspiringEd@nea.org

Please send questions to:
Rachel Immerman, Chairperson
Email: RImmerman@nea.org
Phone: (202) 288-2284

Application Link: [http://www.nea.org/aspiringeducator](http://www.nea.org/aspiringeducator)
Submissions Open: March 1, 2020
Submissions Deadline: May 1, 2020
Best Practices for NEA Aspiring Educators Award Submissions
A Note from the Advisory Committee on Aspiring Educators

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

● Make sure you include our four core values—Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, Social Justice!
  ○ This is a celebration of the incredible work we are doing within our chapters and states, now is the time to show off.
  ○ Show us how YOUR local chapter or state affiliate exemplifies the NEA Aspiring Educators spirit!
● The National Education Association Advisory Committee on Aspiring Educators will be judging all of the recognition submissions (listed on page one).
  ○ This is a dedicated group of YOUR peers, selected by the NEA Aspiring Educators Chair, to represent our voice as Aspiring Educators on a national level.
  ○ These student leaders represent all regions, backgrounds, and content in the field of education.
  ○ No personal relationships will affect the grading criteria for selection applicants.
● Show us your creative side!
  ○ As educators, we know that all Aspiring Educators learn differently. Show us how you differentiate!
    Remember that this all will be shared—please make sure you edit your work!
● Each application MUST be submitted as one package via email by May 1. No exceptions!
  ○ Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The 2019–2020 Advisory Committee on Aspiring Educators cannot wait to see what our amazing peers are doing across the country to strengthen and grow ourselves, our schools, communities, and the NEA Aspiring Educators in your state!

NEA Aspiring Educators Recognition 2019-2020
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 1, 2020.
 Email: aspiringed@nea.org
Organization Recognitions

Local Excellence Recognition

State Excellence Recognition

NEA Aspiring Educators Recognition 2019-2020
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 1, 2020.
Email: aspiringed@nea.org
Local Excellence Recognition
This recognition highlights the work of local chapters and how they engage their members in practicing the NEA Aspiring Educator Core Values (educator quality, community engagement, political action, and social justice).

The Local Excellence Recognitions will be awarded to those chapters that meet the criteria below. In order to recognize multiple diverse chapters, all chapters that submit an application and exemplify excellence throughout the year will receive this recognition.

Nomination Information:
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.

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

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator, and a digital project.

Organization and Infrastructure
- How did your chapter recruit a diverse membership (native people and people of color, diverse gender identities, elementary/secondary/special education, traditional/nontraditional student status, class standing, etc.)?
- How has your chapter focused on distributed leadership development to ensure a continuous network of emerging and engaged chapter leaders?
- What strategies does your chapter use to recruit, engage, and build a community of support for all members?

Educator Quality
- What professional and leadership development opportunities has your local chapter provided?
- How does your local chapter implement the importance of a strong skill set to prepare members for their career in public education?
- How have the resources you offer your members better prepared them for their future classroom?

Community Engagement
- What has your chapter done to engage members in the issues impacting the community?
- How has your chapter worked to support students and educators in the community?
- How has your chapter partnered with other organizations to provide community engagement activities?
Political Action
- How would your local chapter define political action?
- Which political activities has your chapter engaged in?
- How has your local chapter educated their members on the importance of politics in education and the lives of their future students?

Social Justice
- How would your local chapter define social justice?
- How has your chapter worked to advocate for social justice on your campus and in your community?
- What social justice knowledge, advocacy, and action opportunities has your local chapter provided?

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**Feedback**

(Questions on Page 29)
State Excellence Recognition
The State Excellence in NEA Aspiring Educator Core Values Recognition highlights the work of state aspiring educator programs. These statewide programs have engaged their members in practicing the NEA Aspiring Educator Core Values (educator quality, community engagement, political action, and social justice).

The State Excellence Recognitions will be awarded to those programs that meet the criteria highlighted below. In order to recognize multiple diverse programs, all programs that submit an application and exemplify excellence throughout the year will receive this recognition.

Nomination Information:
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.

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

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator, and a digital project.

Organization and Infrastructure:
- How did your state recruit a diverse membership (native people and people of color, diverse gender identities, elementary-secondary-special education, traditional-nontraditional student status, class standing, etc...)?
- How has your program focused on distributed leadership development to ensure a continuous network of emerging and engaged leaders?
- What strategies does your state use to recruit, engage, and build a community of support for all members?

Educator Quality:
- What professional and leadership development opportunities has your state program provided?
- How does your state program implement the importance of a strong skill set to prepare members for their career in public education?
- How have the resources you offer your members better prepare them for their future classroom?

Community Engagement:
- What has your state done to engage members in the issues impacting the state?
- How has your state worked to support students and educators in the community?
- How has your state partnered with other organizations to provide community engagement activities?

**Political Action:**
- How would your state define political action?
- Which political activities has your state been engaged in?
- How has your state educated members on the importance of politics in education and the lives of their future students?

**Social Justice:**
- How would your state define social justice?
- How has your state worked to advocate for social justice throughout your state?
- What social justice knowledge, advocacy, and action opportunities has your state provided?

### Contact Information

| State Aspiring Educator Program: |
| State Affiliate: |
| Digital Submission URL/link: |
| Nominator: |
| Nominator’s Address: |
| Nominator’s Phone Number: |
| Nominator’s E-mail Address: |

### Feedback
*(Questions on Page 29)*
Organization Awards

Aspiring Educator Achievement Award

The #RedForEd Award

#AspiringEdLife Award

NEA Aspiring Educators Recognition 2019-2020
Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 1, 2020.
Email: aspiringed@nea.org
Aspiring Educator Achievement Award

The NEA Aspiring Educator Achievement Award is designed to highlight the effort and dedication of an event, project, or initiative. This award celebrates the achievements of a local chapter, state affiliate program, or multiple states and chapters working together to establish, revitalize, or grow its Aspiring Educators program.

Nomination Information:
For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on the level of the program. You may choose to nominate both a local chapter and state affiliate program, however you will need to file a separate application for each one. Please mark the appropriate category for the nomination:

- Local Aspiring Educators Chapter
- State Aspiring Educators Program
- Multi-State/Chapter Collaboration

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, or multimedia formats.

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

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator, and a digital project.

In the application, please answer all of the following questions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of this Aspiring Educators program.

- What were the goals of this event/project/initiative? Were the goals accomplished? If not, what could be done to be improved for next time?
- How has this event/project/initiative increased, highlighted, or celebrated Aspiring Educator Membership?
- How were the core values (Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, and Social Justice) incorporated?
- How was distributive leadership included?
- How did this event/project/initiative expand beyond aspiring educators?
Aspiring Educator Achievement Award

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<td>Affiliate Name (if applicable):</td>
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Feedback
(Questions on Page 29)
The #RedForEd Award

The #RedForEd Award highlights an aspiring educator chapter/program that has worked to educate their members and their community on the importance of public education, the importance of having prepared educators, the importance of the union, and the importance of working for the benefit of all students.

Nomination Information:

For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on the level of the program. You may choose to nominate both a local chapter and state affiliate program, however you will need to file a separate application for each one. Please mark the appropriate category for the nomination:

- Local Aspiring Educators Chapter
- State Aspiring Educators Program
- Multi-State/Chapter Collaboration

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, or multimedia formats.

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

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator, and a digital project.

In the application, please answer all of the following questions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of this Aspiring Educators program.

- How has this Aspiring Educators program worked to educate their members on the importance of public education?
- How has this program advocated for strong public schools in the community, statewide, and around the country?
- In what ways has this program supported the students and educators in public schools?
- How has this program shed light on the importance of public education and the importance of supporting public education teachers?
- How has this program incorporated social justice advocacy and activism in their work?
## The #RedForEd Award

### Contact Information

| Program Name (local chapter, state program, national program): |
| Affiliate Name (if applicable): |
| State Association: |
| Digital Submission URL/link: |
| Nominator: |
| Nominator’s Address: |
| Nominator’s Phone Number: |
| Nominator’s E-mail Address: |

### Feedback

*(Questions on Page 29)*
The #AspiringEdLife Award

The #AspiringEdLife Award highlights an aspiring educators program that has worked to draw attention to the Aspiring Educators programs on the local, state, and national levels. This award recognizes a group of Aspiring Educator program advocates who have helped to grow the voice of Aspiring Educators from across the country.

Nomination Information:
For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on the level of the program. You may choose to nominate both a local chapter and state affiliate program, however you will need to file a separate application for each one. Please mark the appropriate category for the nomination:

- Local Aspiring Educators Chapter
- State Aspiring Educators Program
- Multi-State/Chapter Collaboration

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, or multimedia formats.

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

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator, and a digital project.

In the application, please answer all of the following questions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of this Aspiring Educators program.

- How did this aspiring educator’s program recruit a diverse membership (native people and people of color, diverse gender identities, elementary/secondary/special education, traditional/nontraditional student status, class standing, etc...)?
- How has this aspiring educator’s program worked to strengthen and unite the voices of aspiring educators?
- In what activities has this aspiring educator’s program participated to draw attention to the aspiring educators programs?
- How has the work of this aspiring educators program influenced the union?
- How has this aspiring educator program provided the opportunity to create a strong skill set to prepare members for their career in public education?
- In what professional and leadership development activities has this aspiring educators program implemented the four NEA Aspiring Educator Core Values (educator quality, community engagement, political action, and social justice)?
### The #AspiringEdLife Award

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#### Feedback

*Questions on Page 29*
Individual Awards

Outstanding Local Leader Award

Outstanding State Leader Award

Distinguished Local Advisor Award

Distinguished State Organizer Award

Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award
Outstanding Local Leader Award

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding Local Leader Award highlights an individual who has acted as an integral leader in building their local chapters to achieve excellence. This leader has achieved, demonstrated, and inspired outstanding leadership to their Local Aspiring Educators chapter.

Nomination Information:

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 nominee’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of aspiring educators.

- How has the Aspiring Educator increased membership numbers and member engagement on their campus?
- In what professional and leadership development activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Educator Quality)
- In what community service activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Community Engagement)
- In what civic engagement/political activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Political Action)
- In what social and racial justice activities, at the local, state, and national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Social Justice)
- What specifically has the local Aspiring Educator leader done to provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?

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 or a digital project, and two letters of recommendation.
Outstanding Local Leader Award

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<td>Name of State Aspiring Educators Program:</td>
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<td>Nominee’s address:</td>
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Feedback
(Questions on Page 29)

*This recognition 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, however they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.*
Outstanding State Leader Award

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding State Leader Award highlights an individual who has acted as an integral leader and provided excellent leadership to their state Aspiring Educators program.

Nomination Information:

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 nominee’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of aspiring educators.

- How has this leader increased membership numbers and member engagement in their state program?
- In what professional and leadership development activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Educator Quality)
- In what community service activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Community Engagement)
- In what civic engagement/political activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Political Action)
- In what social and racial justice activities, at the local, state, and national level, has the leader participated? (Social Justice)
- What specifically has this individual done to provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?

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 the information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator or a digital project, and two letters of recommendation.
**Outstanding State Leader Award**

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**Feedback**

*(Questions on Page 29)*

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*This recognition 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, however they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.*

---

**NEA Aspiring Educators Recognition 2019-2020**

Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 1, 2020.

Email: aspiringed@nea.org
Distinguished Local Advisor Award

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding Local Advisor Award recognizes an individual for their dedication and services to the NEA Aspiring Educators by serving as a Chapter Advisor at the local level.

Nomination Information:
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 nominee’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of aspiring educators.

- In what ways has the advisor supported the local chapter members and leaders?
- How has the advisor advocated for the Aspiring Educators with other faculty/administration on campus?
- How has the advisor demonstrated open communication with campus leadership?
- Describe at least one strong example where the advisor demonstrated their commitment to the local chapter?
- How has this local advisor encouraged the use of the four NEA Aspiring Educator Core Values (educator quality, community engagement, political action, and social justice) in their local 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 the information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator or a digital project, and two letters of recommendation.
## Distinguished Local Advisor Award

### Contact Information

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### Feedback

(Questions on Page 29)
Distinguished State Organizer Award

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding State Organizer Award recognizes an individual for their dedication and service to the NEA Aspiring Educators Program by serving as an organizer at the state level.

Nomination Information:
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 nominee’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of aspiring educators.

- In what ways has the organizer supported Aspiring Educator members and leaders?
- How has the organizer advocated for the Aspiring Educators 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, mentorship, and dedication to Aspiring Educators.
- How has this state organizer encouraged the use of the four NEA Aspiring Educator Core Values (educator quality, community engagement, political action, and social justice) in their state 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 the information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1–2-page essay from the nominator or a digital project, and two letters of recommendation.
# Distinguished State Organizer Award

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<td>Nominator’s Phone number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator’s E-mail address:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Feedback**  
(Questions on Page 29)
Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award

The Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award recognizes the work of individuals who are allies to the Aspiring Educators program and Aspiring Educators across the country. These individuals have demonstrated their devotion to the welfare of public education, educators, and students, along with their passion and dedication to supporting Aspiring Educator programs in their local chapters, state programs, or national program.

For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on the level of the program the individual has supported; please mark the appropriate category for the individual who is nominated.

- Local Chapter
- State Program
- National Program

Nomination Information:
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 nominee’s outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for each question and how each contributes to the success of aspiring educators.

- In what ways has this individual advocated for the Aspiring Educators chapter/program?
- In what ways has this individual mentored Aspiring Educators and/or provided opportunities for Aspiring Educators to become leaders?
- In what ways has this individual dedicated their time and effort to growing the Aspiring Educators program?
- How has this individual worked to provide educator quality, community engagement, political action, and social justice in a local chapter, state Aspiring Educator program, or national program?

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below and a 1–2-page essay from the nominator or a digital project.
Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominee’s Name (self-nominations accepted):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate the nominee’s level of involvement in the program (local, state, or national):</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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator’s Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator’s Phone number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominator’s E-mail address:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback
(Questions on Page 29)

*This recognition was created to celebrate the excellence exemplified within their states and chapters by both elected and non-elected leaders. Nominees do not need to hold elected leadership positions, however they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.
The NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship

The Jack Kinnaman Scholarship for Aspiring Educators

The NEA-Retired Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of Jack Kinnaman, Vice President and former Advisory Council member of NEA-Retired. Jack represented NEA-Retired on the Fund for Children and Public Education and in numerous local, state, and national Association positions, both Active and Retired. He is most fondly remembered as NEA *Cat in the Hat*. Jack cared about the students, especially those who were financially impacted and needed a helping hand. It is family's wish that the scholarship goes to such a student.

To view the complete application, please visit [http://www.nea.org/home/64314.htm](http://www.nea.org/home/64314.htm)

*Please note NEA-Retired is fully responsible for the Jack Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship.*

No applicant or scholarship recipient will be determined by the NEA Aspiring Educators Program.

The deadline is set by NEA-Retired and does not align with the NEA Aspiring Educator Awards Application Deadline.
Feedback Form

The NEA Aspiring Educators modified the recognition applications for the 2019–2020 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 recognition application(s) did you complete?
2. What did you like best about the NEA Aspiring Educators Program Awards application?
3. How might the application process be improved to be more user-friendly?
4. Are there criteria that you feel should be incorporated into the recognition applications?
5. How is NEA, your state affiliate, or your local campus supporting you in achieving excellence as these recognitions indicate?
6. What did you like best about the changes to the NEA Aspiring Educators Awards?