

James Davenport Memorial Award

2026

NOMINATION DEADLINE
July 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST

Purpose

James Davenport (1938 – 1989) was the first president of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). For over twenty years, James Davenport worked tirelessly, in settings stretching from the local to international, as an advocate for higher education faculty, staff, students, and programs. His dedication to the higher education community and belief that all educators must work together as one family are memorialized in this award.

Award

Each year, one nominee may receive the James Davenport Memorial Award. The recipient receives a plaque and an honorarium of \$1,000.

Eligibility

This award is open to all NCHE members in good standing who are not current members of either the NCHE or NEA Executive Board(s).

Selection Criteria

The James Davenport Memorial Award Selection Committee will review all nominations to ensure eligibility and submission requirements are met. Nominations will be considered per the two following leadership areas:

- 1. Voice** – Including, but not limited to: demonstrated advocacy and development of higher education policies, positions, or campaigns that align with the goals of the NCHE and the NEA.
- 2. Community** - Including, but not limited to: demonstrated organizing or collaborative efforts aimed to build agency and capacity among higher education union members.

PROCESS

The names of nominated individuals should be [submitted using this link](#), along with a substantive letter of support/recommendation providing evidence of the nominee's experience reflecting the award criteria.

Additional supporting materials may be included as well.

NOTIFICATION

The winner of the Davenport award will be announced during the month of October (Higher Education Month).

Please submit your nomination by July 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST, [via this form](#). If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the NCHE President (NCHE@nea.org) or staff liaison Sabrina Tines-Morris (Satines@nea.org).