

James Davenport Memorial Award

2026

Nomination Deadline
October 30, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET

About James Davenport

James Davenport (1938–1989) was the first president of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). For over twenty years, he worked tirelessly as an advocate for higher education faculty, staff, students, and programs at the local, national, and international levels.

His dedication to the higher education community—and his belief that all educators must work together as one family—are memorialized through this award. The award recognizes individuals whose leadership reflects Davenport's commitment to advocacy, collaboration, and strengthening the higher education community.

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

Eligible nominations will be reviewed by the James Davenport Memorial Award Selection Committee and evaluated in the following leadership areas, including but not limited to:

1. Voice

Demonstrated advocacy and development of higher education policies, positions, or campaigns that align with the goals of the NCHE and the NEA.

2. Community

Demonstrated organizing or collaborative efforts aimed to build agency and capacity among higher education union members.

Nomination Process

Submit nominations using the nomination form by **October 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

[Nomination Form](#)

Nominations should include:

- A substantive letter of support/recommendation providing evidence of the nominee's experience reflecting the award criteria.
- Any additional supporting materials the nominator wishes to include.

Notification

The recipient of the James Davenport Memorial Award will be announced following Higher Education Month in October.

Questions?

For questions regarding this award, please contact:

Alec Thomson, NCHE President (NCHE@nea.org)

Megan Respol, NEA Staff Liaison (mrespol@nea.org)