

## Identifying Excellence

The Oklahoma Education Association, the National Education Association and the NEA Foundation all believe that every student deserves a quality education and that teaching is the single most important component of a quality education. It is appropriate, therefore, that the NEA and its foundation should recognize one of our own members for teacher excellence.

In an effort “to recognize, reward and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession,” the NEA Foundation and NEA annually present the NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence to one of its members. By selecting and celebrating a national winner of this award, we honor teaching excellence, public education and our dedicated members.

## A Prestigious Award

All affiliate awardees receive expenses-paid travel to The NEA Foundation’s *Salute to Excellence in Education* Gala in Washington, DC. Five awardees are selected for *The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence* and receive \$10,000 each, plus expenses-paid travel for themselves and a guest. One of the top five will be selected to receive *The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence recipient*, which includes \$25,000 in cash and a commemorative gift.

## Eligibility

All current members of an NEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible, including teachers, education support professionals and higher education faculty and staff. NEA state affiliates, the Federal Education Association and direct affiliates may each submit one nomination per year. Only nominations submitted and endorsed by one of these affiliates will be considered.

Additionally, the NEA Foundation – like NEA – does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, sexual orientation or military status, in any of its activities or operations. The Foundation encourages NEA state leaders to consider awardees who reflect the diversity among NEA members.

## Submission Instructions

1. Visit [okea.org/awards](http://okea.org/awards) to find the official nomination form under “NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.”
2. All materials should be submitted electronically on a CD or thumb drive, except the Letters of Nomination, for which the original, hard copies should be included in the packet.
3. Include only the materials requested in these guidelines.
4. Mail the complete nomination packet for receipt at OEA Headquarters, by 5 p.m. CST, January 24, 2020.
5. Submissions by fax or email are not permitted.

### Send your nomination package to:

Awards for Teaching Excellence  
Oklahoma Education Association  
Attention: Maureen Peters  
323 E. Madison  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

*For more information on the ATE Award  
or how to complete the packet,  
contact Maureen Peters  
at 800/522-8091 or [mpeters@okea.org](mailto:mpeters@okea.org).*

# 2021 NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence



Oklahoma Education Association  
Nomination Criteria

**OEA**  
Oklahoma Education Association  
putting education first™



# NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence

## Criteria

Applications for the national awards are judged according to five criteria. Panelists rate state awardees on each criterion using the point value indicated below.

**1. Professional Practice:** The awardee demonstrates expertise, creativity and innovation in his/her field. The awardee uses a variety of strategies to effectively address students' different learning styles and needs. The awardee is a leader at the local, state and/or national level. (15 points)

**2. Advocacy for the Profession:** The awardee is a current, active member of the local, state and/or national education association, and has assumed leadership roles at one or more of these levels. The awardee is an active member of other professional organizations and engages in activities that advance the profession and public education. The awardee speaks out on behalf of public education, educators and students. (15 points)

**3. Attention to Diversity:** The awardee works to provide a learning environment that meets the needs of all students, regardless of differences. The awardee recognizes and explicitly addresses the full array of values, cultures and experiences represented in our diverse modern society, through varied interactions with students. (10 points)

**4. Community Engagement:** The awardee is intentional, engaging family and community resources to enhance student learning and student success. (5 points)

**5. Leadership in Professional Development:** The awardee continually engages in experiences to improve his or her practice and to gain new skills and knowledge. The awardee shares this new learning with colleagues in effective ways. The awardee's participation in and commitment to professional development has a visible impact on his or her institution, students and community. (5 points)



*Pictured above – Bixby's Jessica Jernegan, OEA's 2020 nominee for the NEA Foundation ATE, and some of her students.*

*On the cover– Enid's Roy Bartnick.*

## Nomination Contents

Nomination packages must include all of the items listed below. Formatting instructions are noted for each section.

**A. Data Sheet** – 1-page maximum, must be typed. The data sheet requests contact information for the state, federal, or direct affiliate and the awardee.

**B. Nomination Letter** – 3-page maximum, double-spaced, 12-point or larger type. The nomination letter from the state, federal or direct affiliate president explains why the awardee deserves a national award. *Alternatively, a local president can write the official nomination letter outlining the awardee's qualifications and the state president can attach an additional page with one sentence certifying the nomination.*

**C. Resume** – 2-page maximum. The resume provides a brief, factual overview of the awardee's career, including positions held, degrees attained, honors received, etc. The resume may also describe personal achievements or activities that are not noted elsewhere.

**D. Awardee's Statement** – maximum 3,400 words. The awardee's statement must be written by the awardee as a first-person narrative. The statement includes specific examples to illustrate all five of the award criteria (see Criteria above). The

questions below do not need to be copied verbatim in the text. However, state awardees are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords related to the criteria to aid in the panelists in their reading.

1. How have you grown as an educator throughout your career? Cite several examples of ways you have adapted your practice over time. What strategies or methods do you use to support student learning and student success? How do you act as a leader?

2. How has your involvement in the NEA or OEA contributed to your success as an educator? How would you persuade a new colleague to join or become more active in the association? In what other ways do you serve as an advocate for the profession and for public education?

3. Please describe how you have been intentional, engaging family and community resource to enhance student learning and student success. How do you build relationships with parents and community members?

4. What experiences or activities have been most beneficial to your professional knowledge, skills and practice? How have you contributed to the professional development of your colleagues? How has your professional growth made a difference for your school or university, your students and your community? Include examples.

5. How do you address issues of diversity in your interactions with students? What is the result of such efforts? How does your approach to diversity affect your work?

6. If you have not already done so, tell a story about how your work has made a difference for a student or a group of students.

7. What advice would you give someone entering the profession on how to attain excellence?

**E. Letters of Endorsement** – Up to three letters, 2 pages maximum each, double-spaced preferred. Letters must be submitted with all other materials. Letters of endorsement are written by the awardee's local affiliate president, colleagues, current or former students, parents, or community members. Letters should be signed, if possible, and the salutation should address the state affiliate selection committee or the national panel for The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence.

**F. Submit a digital photo of yourself (jpg format, at least 72 dpi and 400 KB).** *(If chosen as Oklahoma's nominee, you give the NEA Foundation unlimited rights to use your story and photo.)*