

Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy/ NEA Teaching Excellence Award

Purpose: To recognize, reward, and promote teaching excellence. "Teaching excellence" comprises professional practice, advocacy for the profession, community engagement, leadership in professional development, and attention to diversity.

TSTA, NEA and the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) believe that all students deserve a quality education and that teaching is the single most important component of quality education. Through this award, we honor teaching excellence, public education, and the NEA's dedicated members.

Awards: The winner of the Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy Award will receive a plaque, be recognized at the TSTA House of Delegates, and be the Texas Nominee for the NEA Foundation Award. Because the winner of the Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy Award is automatically the Texas nominee for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, individuals who are applying for the Ermalee Boice Award should comply with the guidelines provided for the NEA Foundation Award.

The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence includes \$25,000, celebration at NFIE's annual Salute to Excellence in Education event in Washington, D.C., and national recognition. One recipient of this award will be selected from among the NEA affiliate nominees.

Five finalists for the national award will receive The Horace Mann-NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence, which include \$10,000 and expenses-paid travel to the Salute to Excellence in Education event.

Eligibility: All NEA members, including teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff, are eligible. Nominees must be current members of their local NEA affiliate or bargaining unit.

Nominations: NEA state affiliates may each submit one nomination. Nominations from individuals will not be considered.

Deadline: February 1 (received at the TSTA offices by 5:00 p.m. CST)

Notification: The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence and The Horace Mann-NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence will be presented at NFIE's Salute to Excellence in Education event. All affiliate nominees will also be recognized at the event.

Selection: *State Level*—The TSTA president will appoint a committee to select the winner of the Ermalee Boice award, and that individual will automatically be sub-

mitted to the NFIE as the state's nominee for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

National Level—A national selection panel will choose up to five finalists from the pool of affiliate nominees. The panel includes NEA representatives appointed by the NEA president, members of NFIE's board of directors appointed by the board's chair, and the award winner from the previous year. Practitioners are well represented on the panel.

Finalists will be invited for a personal interview with the national selection panel and may be asked to prepare additional materials prior to the interview.

Criteria: Nominations will be judged according to the criteria listed below.

- *Professional Practice:* The nominee demonstrates instructional expertise, creativity, and innovation. The nominee uses a variety of pedagogical techniques and effectively addresses students' different learning styles and needs. The nominee is an instructional leader at the local, state, and/or national level.
- *Advocacy for the Profession:* The nominee 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 nominee is an active member of other professional organizations and engages in activities that advance the profession and public education. The nominee speaks out on behalf of public education, educators, and students.
- *Community Engagement:* The nominee frequently interacts with parents and other community members on substantive issues in teaching and learning. The nominee identifies and helps to bring community resources to students in both formal and informal settings.
- *Leadership in Professional Development:* The nominee continually engages in experiences to improve his or her practice and gain new skills and knowledge. The nominee consistently shares new learning with colleagues in a variety of venues. The nominee's participation in and commitment to professional development has a visible impact on his or her institution, students, and community.
- *Attention to Diversity:* The nominee works to provide a learning environment that meets the needs of all students, regardless of differences. The nominee recognizes and explicitly addresses the variety of values and experiences represented in modern

society, through curriculum and instruction and in other interactions with students.

Scoring: Each criterion will be rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 indicates minimal evidence of the criterion, and 5 indicates very strong evidence of the criterion.

Contents of Nomination: Nomination packages must include all of the materials listed below, in the specified order. Except where otherwise noted, all documents must be typewritten, using 12-point or larger type, double-spaced, and with margins of at least one inch on all sides. Page limitations are noted for each section. Nominations that do not conform to these guidelines will be disqualified.

• *Data Sheet*—1 page

The data sheet requests directory and other information for the state, federal, or direct affiliate, the nominee, and the nominee's local affiliate. Handwritten data sheets will not be accepted. General formatting specifications do not apply.

• *Résumé/Biography*—maximum 1 page

This section will include a brief, factual overview of the nominee's career, including positions held, degrees attained, honors received, etc. This section may also describe personal achievements or activities that are not noted elsewhere.

• *Nominee's Statement*—maximum 5 pages

This statement must be written by the nominee, as a first-person narrative. The questions themselves do not need to be reproduced in the text, or answered in any particular order. The statement should include specific examples that illustrate one or more of the award criteria. If an example is meant to address multiple criteria, it may be helpful to use keywords or phrases to guide the reader. The nominee's statement must address the following topics:

- What do you consider to be the most successful innovation that you have introduced in your classroom or school? What strategies and/or methods do you use to ensure that all students achieve at a high level? How do you act as an instructional leader?
- How has your involvement in the National Education Association or NEA affiliate(s) 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?
- What role(s) do you feel professional educators should play in the life of the community, and why? Conversely, how can community resources enhance student learning, and why are they important?
- 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 development made a difference for your school or university, your students, and your community?

—How do you address issues of diversity in your curriculum and instruction and in other interactions with students, and what is the result of such efforts? How does your approach to diversity affect your work?

—If you have not already done so, tell a story about how your approach to teaching made a difference for a student or a group of students.

—What advice would you give to someone entering the profession on how to attain teaching excellence?

• *Letters of Endorsement*—maximum 6 pages (up to 3 letters, maximum 2 pages each)

Up to three letters of endorsement for the nominee may be attached. The endorsements may come from the nominee's local affiliate president, immediate colleagues, peers, current or former students, parents, or community members.

Letters of endorsement must note how long the writer has known the nominee and in what capacity the writer is able to comment on the nominee's professional work. All letters of endorsement must be submitted as part of the nomination package.

Additional information may be required before submitting the Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy Award winner's packet to the NEA Foundation for Teaching Excellence Award.

Submission Instructions:

- Number the pages of the entire package consecutively, starting with the Data Sheet (Part A) as page 1.
- Do not staple or bind the materials. Paper clips or binder clips are acceptable.
- Do not use covers or other decorative packaging.
- Include only the materials requested in these guidelines.
- Mail one original, complete nomination package for receipt at TSTA's offices by 5:00 p.m. CDT, February 1. Submissions by fax or email are not permitted.

Checklist:

- Data Sheet—1 page
- Résumé/Biography—maximum 1 page
- Nominee's Statement—maximum 5 pages
- Letters of Endorsement—maximum 6 pages (up to three letters, maximum 2 pages each)

Official Data Sheet

Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy/NEA Teaching Excellence Award

Nominations must be received at TSTA by 5 p.m. CDT, February 1.

STATE AFFILIATE INFORMATION

President: _____

Affiliate Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Nominee: _____ SSN: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

School/Institution: _____ District: _____

Work Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Job Title: _____

Subject(s) & grade level(s) taught: _____

LOCAL AFFILIATE INFORMATION

President: _____

Affiliate Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____