



# 2021 JOHN McCORMACK CEA AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

PRESENTED ANNUALLY BY CEA

## PURPOSE: IDENTIFYING TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

The purpose of the John McCormack Award is to recognize and promote excellence in teaching and service to the profession. Competition for the award will be open to all CEA members.

The CEA award winner will also be CEA's nominee for the NEA/NFIE award, whose nominees include teachers, education support personnel, and higher education faculty and staff. The CEA award winner is expected to complete additional paperwork to be submitted as part of the application for the NEA/NFIE award.

The Connecticut nominee will receive a cash honorarium in the amount of \$2000 from CEA. The winner of the NEA/NFIE award will receive a check for \$25,000, and a commemorative plaque and nationwide recognition. Five national finalists will each receive \$10,000.

## ELIGIBILITY

All current members of CEA with a minimum of three years teaching experience are eligible and may be either self-nominated or nominated by another CEA member. Only nominations submitted and endorsed by CEA will be nominated for the NEA/NFIE Award.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- **Phase one** of the McCormack application (consisting of the online nomination form, letters of support, and resume) should be submitted using the online form.

- **Phase one** of the application materials must be received by January 25, 2021.
- **Phase two** of the application (semi-finalist essay questions) must be emailed to [katef@cea.org](mailto:katef@cea.org) by February 12, 2021. Please include only the materials and information

requested in the application guidelines.

- For more information on the CEA John McCormack/NFIE Award or how to complete the online application, please contact Kate Field at 860-725-6368 or [katef@cea.org](mailto:katef@cea.org).



### TIMELINE

- **January 25, 2021 PHASE ONE:** all nominee applications (online nomination form, letters of support, and resume) must be submitted online by the close of business on this date.
- **February 12, 2021:** all applications screened by committee and semi-finalists selected and notified.
- **March 11, 2021 PHASE TWO:** all semifinalist essays due by this date (emailed to [katef@cea.org](mailto:katef@cea.org)).
- **April 14, 2021:** Semi-finalist interviews.
- **May 1, 2021 (approximately) PHASE THREE:** CEA John McCormack award winner materials submitted to NEA for NEA/NFIE award.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

Panelists rate nominees on a scale of 1 to 10 for each of the following criteria, where a 1 represents minimal evidence of the criterion and a score of 10 represents very strong evidence of the criterion.

- 1. 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.
- 2. ADVOCACY FOR THE PROFESSION:** The awardee is a current, active member of CEA and has assumed leadership roles in some capacity within the Association. 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.
- 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The nominee frequently interacts with parents and 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.
- 4. LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** The nominee continually engages in experiences to improve and refine their practice. The nominee shares this new learning with colleagues in a variety of venues. The nominee's participation in and commitment to professional learning has a visible impact on his or her institution, students, and community.
- 5. 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 full array of values, cultures, and experiences represented in our diverse modern society, both through curriculum and instruction and in other interactions with students.



## NOMINATION CONTENTS AND FORMATTING

- **McCormack Award Contact Information and Nomination form:** Download from [cea.org/grants-and-awards](https://cea.org/grants-and-awards).
- **Résumé:** The résumé should provide a brief, factual overview of the nominee's career, including positions held, association leadership roles, degrees attained, honors received, etc. The resume may also describe personal achievements or activities not mentioned elsewhere.
- **Letters of endorsement:** The nominee should include three letters of recommendation. Two of the three letters should be from at least one of the following: an administrator, colleague, or local association representative (building rep, officer, etc). The third may be from an additional colleague, current or former student, parent, or community member.
- **Applicant's Personal Statement:** Must be limited to 3,400 words and written by the nominee as a first person narrative. The statement should include specific examples of all five award criteria (see Criteria above).

