

# The KEA Award for Teaching Excellence

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: March 15, 2012**

- Purpose:** *The KEA Award for Teaching Excellence* recognizes, rewards, and promotes excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. It also honors public education and the dedicated members of the KEA. The award is presented jointly by The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education and the National Education Association, with additional support from Horace Mann Educators Corporation and I CAN Learn® Education Systems.
- Awards:** The KEA Teacher of the Year will receive a \$1,000 cash award and commemorative apple. Each year, the five NEA finalists receive *The Horace Mann–NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence*, which include \$10,000 cash and expenses-paid travel to The NEA Foundation’s annual *Salute to Excellence in Education* Gala in Washington, DC. All other affiliate nominees receive *The I CAN Learn®–NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence*, which fund travel to the gala.
- The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence* is presented at the annual gala to one of the five national finalists. This award includes an additional \$25,000 in cash and a personalized commemorative gift.
- Affiliate nominees with technology leadership experience will be considered for a separate and distinct honor, *The AOL@SCHOOL–NEA Foundation Award for Technology Leadership*. (See included in packet).
- Eligibility:** All current members of a KEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible, including teachers, and higher education faculty and staff. Each KEA local affiliate, may submit **one** nomination per year. If a local has more than one possible nominee, then the local affiliate, will determine the nominee. Only nominations submitted and endorsed by one of these affiliates will be considered.
- Deadline:** **Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> (received at KEA offices by 5:00 p.m. EST)**

**Selection:****State LEVEL**

KEA conducts its selection process in a manner it chooses, and submits a single nominee's name and qualifications to The NEA Foundation, consistent with the criteria described below. The KEA Teacher of the Year will be notified and invited to the annual Delegate Assembly at KEA's expense.

**NATIONAL LEVEL**

The national selection panel chooses up to ten national semi-finalists from among the state nominees. The panel includes members appointed by the NEA president and by the chair of The NEA Foundation board of directors, as well as the national awardee from the previous year. Practitioners are well represented on the panel.

**Criteria:**

Nominations are judged according to the criteria listed below. Panelists rate nominees on a scale of 1 to 10 for each criterion, where 1 represents minimal evidence of the criterion and 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 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.
3. **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.
4. **LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** The nominee continually engages in experiences to improve his or her practice and to gain new skills and knowledge. The nominee shares this 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.
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.

**Contents of  
Nomination:**

Nomination packages must include all of the materials listed below, in the specified order. Formatting instructions are noted for each part. **Nominations that do not conform to these specifications will be disqualified.** If the nominee submits documents to the affiliate that are formatted incorrectly, the affiliate is responsible for editing or reformatting those items prior to submitting them to The NEA Foundation.

A. DATA SHEET

**1 page maximum, 10-pt. or larger type. The form must be typed.**

The data sheet requests contact information for the district and local affiliate; the nominee.

B. NOMINATION LETTER

**3 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12-pt. or larger type, 1" or greater margins on all sides. Must be signed by the local president or his/her designee.**

The nomination letter from the local president or his/her designee addresses the award criteria outlined above, citing as many specific examples as possible.

C. RÉSUMÉ

**1 page maximum, double-spaced, 12-pt. or larger type, 1" or greater margins on all sides. May use narrative, bulleted lists, or both.**

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

D. NOMINEE'S STATEMENT

**5 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12-pt. or larger type, 1" or greater margins on all sides.**

The nominee's statement must be written by the nominee, as a first-person narrative. The statement includes specific examples to illustrate all five of the award criteria. **The questions themselves do not need to be reproduced in the text; however, nominees are strongly encouraged to include headings or keywords to aid the panelists in their reading.**

1. What do you consider to be the most successful innovation that you have introduced in your classroom or school? What strategies or methods do you use to ensure that all students achieve at a high level? How do you act as an instructional leader?
2. How has your involvement in the association 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. 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?
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 from your experiences.
5. 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?
6. 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.
7. What advice would you give to someone entering the profession on how to attain teaching excellence?

#### E. LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

**3 letters, 2 pages maximum each, 12-pt. or larger type, 1" or greater margins on all sides, double-space. Must be submitted with all other materials.**

Letters of endorsement are written by: a local affiliate president, colleagues, current or former students, parents, or community members. Letters 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/association work. Letters should be signed, and the salutation should address the state affiliate selection committee.

#### F. Evidence of Association Participation

2 pages max, double spaced, 12 – pt or larger type, 1" or larger type, 1" or greater, must be submitted by the nominee.

Do data sheet for this!

Evidence should include involvement in local, district, state and national affiliate activities. This includes but is not limited to: positions held, committee/work team participation, delegate participation, professional development, presentations, and conferences attended.

**SEE FOLLOWING PAGE (PAGE 6) FOR SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Submission  
Instructions:**

1. Number the pages of the entire package consecutively, starting with the Data Sheet (Part A) as Page 1.
2. Do **not** staple or permanently bind the materials. Paper clips are acceptable.
3. Do **not** use covers or other decorative packaging.
4. Include **only** the materials requested in these guidelines.
5. Mail one complete nomination package **for receipt at KEA offices by 5:00 p.m. EST, March 15, 2012. Submissions by email are preferred.**

Send your nomination package to:

[ariddell@kea.org](mailto:ariddell@kea.org) or  
**Anne Marie Riddell**  
**Kentucky Education Association**  
**401 Capital Avenue**  
**Frankfort, KY 40601**

**Questions?**

Call 502-696-8908 or e-mail Anne Marie Riddell.

**Checklist:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	A. DATA SHEET	<b>1 page</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. NOMINATION LETTER	<b>3 pages maximum</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. RÉSUMÉ/BIOGRAPHY	<b>1 page maximum</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. NOMINEE'S STATEMENT	<b>5 pages maximum</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT	<b>6 pages maximum</b> (3 letters, 2 pages each)
	F. EVIDENCE OF ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATION	2 PAGES MAXIMUM
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18 pages maximum</b>

***OPTIONAL SEPARATE APPLICATION***

AOL@SCHOOLSTATEMENT

**1 PAGE MAXIMUM**  
**(CHECK BOX ON DATA SHEET.)**

## THE AOL@SCHOOL-NEA FOUNDATION TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP AWARD

If the nominee chooses to apply for this award, please submit a one-page statement that answers the following questions:

- How do you use technology in your classroom to engage students?
- What technologies do you use and how do you address multiple student learning styles?
- Briefly describe your most innovative instructional use of technology.
- What steps have you taken to master new technologies and applications?
- How have you shared innovative uses of technology with your colleagues?

USE A SEPARATE PAGE WITH THE AWARD TITLE AT THE TOP TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. PLEASE ATTACH THIS SHEET AS A COVER PAGE. USE 12-POINT OR LARGER TYPE, WITH 1" OR GREATER MARGINS ON ALL SIDES, DOUBLE-SPACED, ONE PAGE MAXIMUM. APPLICATIONS FOR THIS AWARD WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY IF THE APPLICANT'S INTENTION TO APPLY IS CHECKED ON THE DATA SHEET. THE AFFILIATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDITING OR REFORMATTING IF NOMINEE DOES NOT FOLLOW GUIDELINES.

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Applicant's Name:

Affiliate:

Subject(s) Taught:

Grade(s) Taught: