# NEA Aspiring Educators Awards

2018-2019 Application

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#### **ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Jack Kinnaman Scholarship Carol A. Stowe Humanitarian Award

Highest Increase in Number of Members (no application) Highest Percentage Membership Increase (no application)

\*PAC Fundraising Certificates to be provided for the following (no application):
PAC Fundraising – Highest Number of Contributors
PAC Fundraising – Highest Amount Raised Per Member
PAC Fundraising – Award Highest Amount Raised

<sup>\*</sup>PAC fundraising based on online contributions to the Awards Dinner Celebration, PAC Fundraisers (i.e. Photo Booth, Headshots, State Silent Auction Baskets, Lip Sync, etc.)

# NEA ASPIRING EDUCATORS AWARDS INFORMATION

The NEA Aspiring Educators Core Values – Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, and Social Justice – are the underlying areas of focus that direct Aspiring Educators activities. It is in these areas that our members and affiliates sponsor programs, educate on issues, and affect change.

Educator Quality encompasses pre-professional development and job preparation. At local meetings and workshops, state conferences, and national symposiums, our members encounter professional development opportunities: guest speakers on classroom management, experts on testing and practitioners sharing tips on smoothly running science labs. Job preparation comes in the form of resume workshops, portfolio tutorials, mock interviews and new teacher panels. Aspiring Educators publications and websites share educator quality information relevant to our members, including certification requirements and resources for working with special needs children. Aspiring Educator members and chapters partner with Local Associations to enhance in-the-classroom opportunities and secure "real world" insights into the education profession. Aspiring Educators shape their college curriculum by serving as change-agents on boards and committees. Our members' involvement in the NEA Aspiring Educators increases their ability to become quality teachers.

Community Engagement describes how NEA Aspiring Educators members engage the people and environment around them; we impact our communities – locally and globally – and value the mutual relationship which prepares us to support our Aspiring Educators through the communities which support them. Our members learn about communicating with parents, partner with local businesses, and find grant support through Chamber of Commerce consortiums. We design and implement projects as diverse as after-school tutoring programs, learning carnivals, and Senior Citizen dances. New teachers who are NEA Aspiring Educators Alumni are more successful in helping their Aspiring Educators achieve because they know how reaching out to the community provides them access to material and human resources. Further, getting involved in local communities means supporting our Aspiring Educators through their homes, through the people and businesses which they interact, and preparing ourselves to be community leaders as educators.

Political Action includes the knowledge, advocacy, and action around political and legislative issues which impact public education. We celebrate issue awareness around vouchers and charter schools, statemandated certification issues, and new teacher rights. We share information with peers, family and community around how legislative decision making impact our communities, schools, classrooms, and Aspiring Educators. We sponsor voter registrations, get-out-the-vote activities, contact elected officials, help elect pro-public education officials, and lobby our local, state and national legislators. By educating each other, organizing activities and publicizing our involvement, we are making an impact in education politics.

Social Justice refers to a concept in which unequal opportunities are brought to light and equitable opportunities are sought after for groups which have been systematically oppressed, restricted, and discriminated for a more just society. The NEA Aspiring Educators has taken a charge on tackling the immense occurrence of social justice and institutional racism to create awareness and promote activism around the issue. The NEA Aspiring Educators recognizes Aspiring Educator Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities. Social Justice action and advocacy is a priority of the National Education Association and chapters which have shown knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around this priority will be recognized.

# NEA ASPIRING EDUCATORS AWARDS INFORMATION

The NEA Aspiring Educators encourages its members to apply and/or nominate those individuals and/or affiliates that have excelled during the current academic year.

- Distribution of the awards packet is done through the Aspiring Educators state affiliates.
   Applications can be accessed directly via the NEA Aspiring Educators web page at <a href="http://www.nea.org/home/20268.htm">http://www.nea.org/home/20268.htm</a> no later than March 15.
- All nominations and supporting documents must be submitted, postmarked, or received in the NEA
  Aspiring Educators office or appropriate email address on or before May 15th. Information must
  be submitted electronically. Each application must be complete including all supporting
  documentation (such as letters of recommendation).
- Online submission may be submitted for multiple awards (i.e. same webpage for multiple submissions). The specific link to the page must be included in the award submission.
  - A chapter may apply for the Local Excellence Award in addition to other awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the Local Excellence in Social Justice Award.
  - A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice Award
- Winning entries will be announced at the NEA Aspiring Educators Conference (AEC).

All applications, nominations and supporting documents must be emailed to the NEA Aspiring Educators office on or before May 15th. All questions may be directed to the NEA Aspiring Educators Chairperson. Please send entries and/or questions to:

NEA Aspiring Educators Program Email: <u>AspiringEd@nea.org</u> Rachel Immerman, Chairperson Email: RImmerman@nea.org Phone: (202) 288-2284

http://www.nea.org/home/20268.htm
Application will be available online no later than May 15th.

# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & RECOMMENDATIONS

# Best Practices for NEA Aspiring Educators Awards Submissions

A Note from the Advisory Committee of Aspiring Educators

When working on your application, it would be helpful to remember the following:

- Make sure you include our core values, Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, and Social Justice!
  - O This is a celebration of the incredible work we are doing within our chapters and states, now is the time to celebrate and show off.
  - Show us how YOUR chapter or state exemplifies the NEA Aspiring Educators spirit!
- The National Education Association Advisory Committee of Aspiring Educator Members (ACAE) will be judging all of the award submissions (listed on page two).
  - This is a dedicated group of YOUR peers, selected by the NEA Aspiring Educators Chair, to represent our voice as Aspiring Educators on a national level.
  - These Aspiring Educators represent all regions, backgrounds, and content in the field of education.
  - o No personal relationships will impact the grading criteria or selection applicants.
- Show us your creative side!
  - As educators, we know that all Aspiring Educators learn differently. Show us how you differentiate!
  - We cannot wait to see what you come up with, and share it with Aspiring Educators from across the country!
  - O All award applications will be featured on the NEA Aspiring Educators Website to inspire and assist growing chapters and states around incredible projects and events other members are doing across the country!
- Remember that this all will be shared please make sure you edit your work!
- Each award MUST be submitted as one package via email by May 15, 2019. No exceptions!
  - o An award application will not be considered if the package is incomplete.
- When applying for the Local or State Excellence Award, be sure to consider submitting the separate core values work to each specific category
  - O You will build stronger applications when you build off what you already have

The 2018-2019 Advisory Committee of Aspiring Educators cannot wait to see what our amazing peers are doing across the country to strengthen and grow ourselves, our schools, communities, and the National Education Association Aspiring Educators in your state!

The NEA Aspiring Educators New Local Chapter Recognition is designed to highlight the effort and dedication that comprise the organization of a new local Aspiring Educators chapter.

The specific guidelines of new chapter status vary by state. Therefore, the NEA Aspiring Educators Program will recognize new chapters that have been recognized by their state Aspiring Educators as being initiated during the current awards year. NOTE: This does not include chapters that are "revitalized."

States will be recognized as Bronze (One new chapter), Silver (Two new chapters), Gold (Three new chapters), and Platinum (Four or more new chapters) status and awarded for their efforts to increase membership.

Local Chapter Name	
Local Chapter Location (city, state)	
Local Chapter Officers (name, title)	
Members (#)	
Local Chapter Activities (in brief)	
Digital submission URL/ link:	
Verification by State Organizer: (confirmation letter o	or signature)
Signature	Date

The NEA Aspiring Educators Local Excellence Award recognizes Local Aspiring Educator Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities. Social Justice action and advocacy is a priority of the National Education Association and chapters which have shown knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around this priority will be recognized.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials should be organized in online/digital/multimedia formats. Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of Social Justice related activities and impact statements. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively display and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

# Organization and Infrastructure

- How did your chapter recruit a diverse membership (people of color, gender, sex, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional Aspiring Educator status, class standing, etc...)?
- How would your chapter define Social Justice?
- How has your chapter recruited members through your Social Justice activities?

#### **Educator Quality**

- How does your chapter exemplify the importance of Social Justice in public education?
- How has the Social Justice Activities you offer have helped better prepare your Aspiring Educator members for the classroom?

# **Community Engagement**

- What has your chapter done to engage around issues impacting the community?
- How has your chapter partnered with other organizations around Social Justice?

#### **Political Action**

University name

 What Social Justice knowledge, advocacy, and action opportunities has your chapter provided?

State Association
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number
E-mail address

#### NEA Aspiring Educators Awards 2018-2019

Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2019.

<sup>\*</sup>A chapter may apply for the Local Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the Local Excellence in Social Justice.

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding Local Advisor Award recognizes an individual for dedication and service to the NEA Aspiring Educators at the local level.

The nominator may submit a 1-2 page essay or digital media project. In the application, please answer all of the questions below to highlight the Local Advisor's outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the Aspiring Educator local.

- In what ways has the Advisor supported the chapter leaders and members?
- How has the Advisor advocated for the Aspiring Educators with other faculty/administration on campus?
- How has the Advisor demonstrated open communication with campus leadership?
- Describe at least one situation where the Advisor demonstrated his/her commitment to the chapter.

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

fominee's Name	
ame of Local	
ame of State Association	
igital submission URL/ link:	
ominator	
ddress	
hone number	
-mail address	

# JEFFREY "J.D." MILLER OUTSTANDING UNDERCLASSMAN AWARD

The NEA Aspiring Educators Jeffrey "J.D." Miller Outstanding Underclassman Award recognizes a freshman or sophomore who has achieved excellence throughout the year by providing leadership to the local Aspiring Educators.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay or digital media presentation. In the application, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the Local Underclassman's outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the local Aspiring Educators.

- Specifically, how has the Aspiring Educator helped the chapter?
- In what core value (Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, and Social Justice) activities has the Aspiring Educator participated?
- What has been the Aspiring Educator's impact on chapter members or in the community?
- In what ways does the Aspiring Educator stand out from other underclassmen on campus?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's name (self-nominations accepted)
Name of Local Aspiring Educator Chapter
Name of State Association
Nominee's address
Nominee's e-mail address
Nominee's year in school
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number E-mail address

# OUTSTANDING LOCAL LEADER AWARD

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding Local Leader Award recognizes an individual who has acted as an integral leader in building their local chapter to achieve excellence. This person has achieved, demonstrated, and inspired outstanding leadership to their Local Aspiring Educators.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay or digital media presentation. In the application, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the Local Leader's outstanding qualities and actions? Include descriptive examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the local Aspiring Educators.

- How has the Aspiring Educator leader increased membership numbers and member participation on campus?
- In what professional and leadership development activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Educator Quality)
- In what community service activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Community Engagement)
- In what civic engagement/political activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Political Action)
- In what social and racial justice activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated or organized? (Social Justice)
- What specifically has the Aspiring Educator leader done to develop a team dedicated to member success, provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's Name (self-nominations accepted)

Name of Local Aspiring Educator Chapter

Name of State Association

Nominee's address

Nominee's e-mail address

Digital submission URL/ link:

Nominator

Address

Phone number

E-mail address

<sup>\*</sup>This award was created to celebrate the excellence exemplify within their states and chapters by both elected and non-elected leaders. Nominees do not need to hold elected leadership positions, they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.

The NEA Aspiring Educators Local Excellence Award recognizes Local Aspiring Educator Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities within in three core value areas: educator quality, community engagement, political action and social justice.

For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on membership; please mark the
appropriate category for the nominated local.
Locals with 100 or fewer members
Locals with 101-200 members
Locals with 201 or more members

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials may be organized in online/digital/multimedia formats. Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of activities and impact statements. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively answer, display, and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

# Organization and Infrastructure

- What strategies does your chapter use to recruit members?
- Has your chapter increased membership? If yes, how? If no, what would you change?
- How did your chapter recruit a diverse membership? (People of color, gender, sex, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional Aspiring Educator status, class standing, etc...)
- How does your chapter communicate with its members and potential members?

#### **Educator Quality**

- What professional and leadership development opportunities has your chapter provided?
- How have the educator quality workshops your chapter offers better prepare Aspiring Educators for the classroom, specifically in your community?

#### Community Engagement

- What has your chapter done to engage around issues impacting the community?
- How has your chapter partnered with other organizations to provide activities?
- How does your chapter connect with local media for your community service projects?
- How does your chapter evaluate the impact of your projects in the community?

# **Political Action**

- How would your chapter define political action?
- In what political activities has your chapter been involved?
- How do you exemplify to members the importance of politics as an Aspiring Educator?

#### **Social Justice**

- How do your leaders engage in social justice?
- How would your state define social justice?
- What has your state done to encourage chapters to engage in social justice?

#### **NEA Aspiring Educators Awards 2018-2019**

University Name
Local Aspiring Educator Chapter
☐ Local with 100 or fewer members ☐ Local with 101-200 members ☐ Local with 201 or more members
State Association
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator(s)
Phone number
E-mail address

<sup>\*</sup>A chapter may apply for the Local Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the Local Excellence in Social Justice.

The NEA Aspiring Educators State Achievement Recognition is designed to highlight the effort and dedication of a project which a state affiliate has exerted to focus, highlight, or expand the work surrounding its Aspiring Educators. This recognition is designed to celebrate the achievements of an affiliate in: establishing or revitalizing its Aspiring Educators, success in an Aspiring Educator Member campaign, etc.

All applications will be recognized for the work and dedication which a state has exerted to celebrate and support Aspiring Educators.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials must be organized in online/digital/multimedia formats. Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects publicity, event depictions of activities and impact statements. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively answer, display, and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

Applications should exemplify excellence achieved throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities within in core value areas: educator quality, community engagement, political action and social justice. In addition, applications should include a confirmation letter by the State Organizer.

# Organization and Infrastructure

- What was the intent of this event/ project? Was it achieved?
- How has this event/ project increased, highlighted, or celebrated Aspiring Educator Membership?
- How were Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, and Social Justice professional and leadership development provided?

Title of Project	
Name of State Association	
Digital submission URL/ link:	
Nominator	
Address	
Phone number	
E-mail address	

#### NEA Aspiring Educators Awards 2018-2019

<sup>\*</sup>A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice.

# OUTSTANDING STATE EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

The NEA Aspiring Educators State Excellence in Social Justice Award recognizes State Affiliates that have achieved excellence by providing members with educator quality, community engagement, and political action around social justice issues. Social Justice action and advocacy is a priority of the National Education Association and states which have shown knowledge and awareness, advocacy, and action around this priority will be recognized.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials must be organized in online/digital/multimedia formats. Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of Social Justice related activities and impact statements. *Please do not include originals*. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively display and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

# Organization and Infrastructure

- How did your state recruit a diverse membership (people of color, gender, sex, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional Aspiring Educator status, class standing, etc...)?
- How would your state define Social Justice?
- How has your state recruited members through your Social Justice activities?

### **Educator Quality**

- How does your state exemplify the importance of Social Justice in public education?
- How has the Social Justice Activities you offer have helped better prepare your Aspiring Educator members for the classroom?

#### Community Engagement

- What has your state done to engage around Social Justice issues impacting the state?
- How has your state partnered with other organizations around Social Justice?

#### **Political Action**

What Social Justice knowledge, advocacy, and action opportunities has your state provided?

State Association
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number
E-mail address

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding State Organizer Award recognizes an individual for dedication and service to the NEA Aspiring Educators at the state level.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the State Organizer's outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the State Aspiring Educators.

- In what ways has the Organizer supported Aspiring Educator members and leaders?
- How has the Organizer advocated for the Aspiring Educators with the state or national association?
- How has the Organizer demonstrated open communication with members and leaders?
- Describe at least one strong example which demonstrates their commitment to the Aspiring Educators.

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's name
Name of State Association
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number
E-mail address

# OUTSTANDING STATE ASPIRING EDUCATOR LEADER AWARD

The NEA Aspiring Educators Outstanding State Aspiring Educator Leader Award recognizes an individual who has achieved excellence throughout the year by providing excellent leadership to the State Aspiring Educators.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the State Aspiring Educator Leader's outstanding qualities and actions. Include descriptive examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the state Aspiring Educators.

- How has the Aspiring Educator leader increased membership numbers and/or member participation across the state?
- How has the Aspiring Educator leader participated in, organized, or supported others in efforts focused on professional and leadership development, community and partnership engagements, civic engagement and advocacy activities, and social and racial justice initiatives?
- In what ways has the Aspiring Educator leader collaborated with staff and member leaders in the state to grow and strengthen the Aspiring Educators program?
- How has the Aspiring Educator leader worked in collaboration with leaders across the state to support various chapters?
- What specifically has the Aspiring Educator leader done to provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (indicate relationship to the nominee). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's name (self-nominations accepted)
Name of State Association
Nominee's address
Nominee's e-mail address
Digital submission URL/ link:
Nominator
Address
Phone number
E-mail address

<sup>\*</sup>This award was created to celebrate the excellence exemplify within their states and chapters by both elected and non-elected leaders. Nominees do not need to hold elected leadership positions, they must exemplify strong leadership qualities.

The NEA Aspiring Educators State Excellence Award recognizes State Aspiring Educator affiliates that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities within in three core value areas: educator quality, community engagement political action, and social justice.

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below from events throughout the year. Materials must be organized in online/digital/multimedia formats. Material may include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of community projects and related publicity, event depictions of activities and impact statements. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Alternately, creatively display and exemplify these questions through your digital project.

# Organization and Infrastructure

- What strategies does your state use to recruit members?
- Has your state increased membership? If yes, how? If no, what would you change?
- How did your state recruit a diverse membership? (People of color, gender, sex, elementary-secondary, traditional-nontraditional Aspiring Educator status, class standing, etc...)
- How does your state communicate with its members and potential members?

#### **Educator Quality**

- What professional development, leadership development, and education engagement opportunities has your state provided?
- How have the Educator Quality workshops your state offers better prepare Aspiring Educators for the classroom?

#### **Community Engagement**

- How has your state partnered with other organizations to provide activities?
- How does your state connect with local media for community service projects?
- How does your state evaluate the impact of your projects in the community?

# **Political Action**

- How would your state define political action?
- In what political activities has your state been involved?
- How do you exemplify to members the importance of politics as an aspiring educator?

#### **Social Justice**

- How do your leaders engage in social justice?
- How would your state define social justice?
- What has your state done to encourage chapters to engage in social justice?

State Association

NEA Aspiring Educators Awards 2018-2019

Entries must be postmarked or received on or before May 15, 2019.

Digital submission URL/ link:	
Nominator(s)	
Phone number	
E-mail address	

<sup>\*</sup>A state may apply for the State Excellence Award in addition to other local awards; however, if it is awarded, the application will not be considered for the State Excellence in Social Justice.

# FEEDBACK FORM

The NEA Aspiring Educators modified the Awards applications for the 2018-2019 year. Please share your input with us so that we can continue our improvements.

Submit this feedback along with your application, or under separate cover.

- 1. Which award application(s) did you complete?
- 2. What did you like best about the NEA Aspiring Educators?
- 3. As you completed the application, in what areas did you have questions or encounter a lack of clarity?
- 4. What would make the application and packet more user-friendly?
- 5. Are there *criteria* that you feel should be incorporated into the awards applications?
- 6. How might the application process be improved?
- 7. How is NEA/ your Affiliate supporting you in achieving excellence as these awards indicate?
- 8. How could NEA/ your Affiliate do better in supporting you?
- 8. Did you apply for a new listed award?
- What did you like best about the changes to the NEA Aspiring Educators Awards?