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 is open to all CEA members.

The CEA award winner will also be CEA’s nominee for the NEA/NFIE award and 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 $2,000 from CEA and will attend an expenses-paid trip to the Salute to Education Gala in Washington, DC. Two CEA semi-finalists will receive an award of $1,000 each. 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 must 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

Nomination forms and application materials should be mailed to CEA President, Jeff Leake, at Capitol Place, Suite 500, 21 Oak Street, Hartford CT, 06106.

Include only the materials requested in the application guidelines

Mail the complete application packet to CEA Headquarters, postmarked January 24, 2020. For more information on the CEA John McCormack/NFIE Award or how to complete the application packet, please contact Kate Field at 860-725-6368 or katef@cea.org.

2020 JOHN McCORMACK CEA AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE PRESENTED ANNUALLY BY CEA

TIMELINE

- January 24, 2020 PHASE ONE: All nominee applications due to CEA postmarked no later than this date.
- February 21, 2020 Semi-finalists notified.
- March 13, 2020 PHASE TWO: All semifinalist essays due to CEA postmarked no later than this date.
- March 26, 2020 Interviews held with semi-finalists.
- May 1, 2020 PHASE THREE: CEA John McCormack award winner materials submitted to NEA for NEA/NFIE award.
Panelists rate nominees on a scale of 1 to 10 for each of the following criteria, where a score of 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 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.

**NOMINATION CONTENTS AND FORMATTING**

- McCormack Award Contact Information Sheet: download from cea.org/about/grants-awards.
- Résumé: The résumé should provide 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 not mentioned elsewhere. The format of the résumé should be two pages maximum, double-spaced, 12 pt or larger font, ½ inch margins on all sides. Applicant may use narrative or bulleted lists or both.
- Letters of endorsement: The nominee should include three letters, two pages maximum each, double spaced preferred. Two of the three letters should be from: An administrator, a colleague, a local Association representative (building rep, officer, etc). The third may be from a colleague, current or former students, parents, or community members.
- 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 Selection Criteria above left).
JOHN McCORMACK CEA AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
CONTACT INFORMATION SHEET

Nominee name ____________________________________________

Home address ____________________________________________

City/town __________________________ State ______ ZIP __________

Home phone ____________________________________________

Email __________________________________________________

Local Association ________________________________________

If self-nominated, check here ______

If not self-nominated, nominator must fill out form below

Nominated by (must be a CEA member) ____________________________

Name ___________________________________________________

Home address ____________________________________________

City/town __________________________ State ______ ZIP __________

Home phone ____________________________________________

Email __________________________________________________

Local Association ________________________________________