



2020

Nebraska Teacher of the Year Application

Program sponsored by:

Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska State Board of Education
BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nebraska Parent Teacher Association
Nebraska State Education Association
Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)
SMART Technologies
University of Nebraska
Dillards Gateway Mall Lincoln
Nebraska Corn Board
Community Partner:
KOLN/KGIN (Channel 10/11)

Timeline:

March 2019	Nomination forms and Application packets available. <i>(A classroom video is submitted with the Application.)</i>
August 1, 2019	Deadline for receipt of applications. Applications that are incomplete or do not comply with the format will be disqualified.
August/September 2019	Finalists will be selected and notified.
September/October 2019	Finalists will be interviewed in Lincoln.
November 7, 2019	Awards Recognition Luncheon.



Eligibility Criteria

The **Nebraska Awards of Excellence Program**, which features selection of the **Nebraska Teacher of the Year**, serves to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher. Candidates should be exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled teachers; have the respect and admiration of parents colleagues and students; play active and useful roles in the community as well as in the school; be poised and articulate; and, possess the energy to withstand a busy schedule. The most important criterion is a superior ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Teachers who have been nominated in prior years but did not achieve at least an Award of Excellence ranking may be nominated.

Teachers who have received recognition as Nebraska Teacher of the Year or who have been recognized as an Award of Excellence Recipient in the previous three years are not eligible for nomination.

Application Information

Whether nominated by someone or applying directly, each candidate must personally complete the application form. All answers must be in the teacher's own words.

Use adequate margins, standard size font (10-12 point).

**The social security number is requested for use by third party private monetary contributors for purposes of federal and state tax laws since monetary awards are provided by third party private donations to as many as five (5) applicants as Award of Excellence Teachers or as the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. (Refer to page 3 of the Application.)*

***The Nebraska Teacher of the Year will be selected without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability. Answering the questions are voluntary but is requested by the National Teacher of the Year Program. (Refer to page 3 of the Application.)*

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972); or handicap (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) in educational programs of activities receiving federal assistance. Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the Nebraska Department of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.

Application Checklist

The Superintendent authorized the Nominee's Application by completing the Superintendent Authorization Form.

The Principal authorized the Nominee's Application by completing the Principal Authorization Form.

The Nominee signed the Application and attached his/her completed Nominee Authorization Form.

The Nominee uploaded his/her Classroom Video Presentation YouTube hyperlink on page 4 of the Application. (Refer to pages 4 and 5 of the Application Information and Instructions document for suggestions on videotaping and instructions on how to upload your YouTube hyperlink.). The video is not expected to be of professional quality, it is important that the Application Review Panel and the Interview Panel can clearly see and hear the applicant, the students, and what is happening in the lesson.

The Essay Questions are completed and attached to the Application in a single PDF document.

A maximum of three Letters of Support (**one-page each**) are attached to the Application in single PDF documents.

Before submitting the Application please be sure the Application is complete, the required information is provided, and the format guidelines were followed.

The Application will not be returned to the Nominee.

Application Review Panel

The **Nebraska Application Review Panel** examines all applications submitted and selects **up to five Award of Excellence Teachers**. Each of the Award of Excellence Teachers will be interviewed to determine the **Nebraska Teacher of the Year**, who will be eligible for consideration as the National Teacher of the Year. Only completed applications will be considered.



2020 Application for Nebraska Teacher of the Year

NDE: 10-002

Name _____ Social Security Number* _____

Grade and Subject Taught _____ School _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

School Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

What is your gender? ** Female Male Decline to answer Other (please specify)

What category includes your age? ** 21-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 or older

What is your ethnicity? **

White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. Not Hispanic or Latino.)

Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin.)

Black/African American (A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)

Asian/Indian Subcontinent (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.)

Native American/Alaskan Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America [including Central America], and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)

Decline to Answer

Professional Preparation

Check appropriate boxes and fill in other information.

<u>Degrees Earned</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Year Received</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate's	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Master's	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral	_____	_____	_____

Type of Teaching Certification _____

Professional Experience

List schools where you have taught, what subject was taught, and beginning and ending dates at each school.

<u>School</u>	<u>Subject Taught</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Superintendent and Principal Authorization Forms

Superintendent's Name:

Superintendent's E-mail Address:

Nominee:

1. Right-click on the Hyperlink
2. Select "Copy link address"
3. Paste the "link address" in an E-mail to your Superintendent to approve your Application.

Principal's Name:

Principal's E-mail Address:

Nominee:

1. Right-click on the Hyperlink
2. Select "Copy link address"
3. Paste the "link address" in an E-mail to your Principal to approve your Application.

Nominee Authorization Forms

Nominee's Authorization Form *Hyperlink:*

Nominee's *Completed Authorization Form Attached:*

Classroom Video *Hyperlink:*

Completed Essay Questions Attached:

Letter of Support (a maximum of one-page) *Attached:*

Letter of Support (a maximum of one-page) *Attached:*

Letter of Support (a maximum of one-page) *Attached:*

Submit by E-mail

Background Information

The National Teacher of the Year Program originated in 1952 and continues to recognize teachers on the local, state, and national levels. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has been in place since 1972 and affords opportunity to honor dedicated teachers for excellence in the classroom. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding Nebraska certified teachers, who plan to continue in an active teacher status in any state-approved or accredited school pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Supervisory and administrative responsibilities are secondary considerations. The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

In order to encourage innovative educational programs to benefit students and local school districts, the Nebraska State Board of Education awards a \$1,000 grant to each of the finalists so that each honored teacher can pursue an educational project of special interest. Since 1988 teachers and their students have acquired (or produced) special curriculum materials, purchased classroom technological equipment, acquired new skills through attendance at seminars, studied arts and humanities, sponsored student field trips, and purchased unique items not otherwise budgeted for (such as art work for display and a school sign for placement outside a new building).

The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has received financial support from BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska State Education Association, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, Nebraska PTA, and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). These sponsors and other friends of the Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program provided stipends to the Awards of Excellence recipients and to the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has also received support from KOLN/KGIN (Channel 10/11), a Community Partner; the University of Nebraska, SMART Technologies, Dillard's Gateway Mall Lincoln, and the Nebraska Corn Board. In 2019 the Teacher of the Year received mementos, gifts in the amount of \$2,700. The Awards of Excellence recipients received mementos, gifts in the amount of \$1,750. The amounts for 2020 have yet to be established.

Questions/Application Requests

Questions and requests for application forms should be directed to Lora Sypal at (402) 471-5059 or lora.sypal@nebraska.gov.

Deadline

Applications must be submitted no later than **11:59 p.m. (Central Standard Time) August 1, 2019**.

E-mail the completed application to lora.sypal@nebraska.gov.

Essay Questions:

*The following questions should be answered on separate sheets of paper.
Restate the question at the top of the page for each answer and begin each question on a separate sheet.
Points may be deducted for not following instructions and for grammatical and typographical errors.*

1. **Educational History and Professional Development Activities** **Maximum 20 points**
(Limit your typed response to two double-spaced pages.)
Beginning with the **most recent**: (a) list colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies and indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance; (b) list teaching employment history, indicating time period, grade level and subject area; (c) list professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities; (d) list staff development leadership activity and leadership activity in the training of future teachers; and (e) list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

2. **Professional Biography** **Maximum 10 points**
(Limit your typed response to two double-spaced pages.)
What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher? Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.

3. **Community Involvement** **Maximum 5 points**
(Limit your typed response to one double-spaced page.)
Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities such as volunteer work, civic responsibilities, and other group activities.

4. **Philosophy of Teaching and Learning** **Maximum 25 points**
(Limit your typed response to two double-spaced pages.)
A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching and learning, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.
B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

5. **Technology in Education** **Maximum 5 points**
(Limit your typed response to one double-spaced page.)
Explain how you incorporate technology into your classroom teaching. Include in your statement how students use technology and how you use technology as a teaching tool for classroom preparation and professional work.

6. **Education Issues and Trends** **Maximum 10 points**
(Limit your typed response to two double-spaced pages.)
What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address **one** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects, and resolutions.

7. **The Teaching Profession** **Maximum 15 points**
(Limit your typed response to two double-spaced pages.)
A. What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?
B. What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?

8. **Nebraska Teacher of the Year** **Maximum 10 points**
(Limit your typed response to one double-spaced page.)
As the Nebraska Teacher of the Year you would serve as a spokesperson and representative for the entire teaching profession. As Teacher of the Year, what would be your message to Nebraska? What would you communicate to your profession and to the general public?

9. **Letters of Support**
(Limit of three letters, each a maximum of one page.)
Include three letters of support from among any of the following: superintendent, principal, colleague, student/former student, parent, or civic leader.

Classroom Video Points:

(Point values: 1 Serious Concern, 2 Developing, 3 Proficient, and 4 Exemplary)

1. **PLANNING:**
By observing the lesson, it was apparent that the teacher took the following issues into consideration when planning the lesson:
 - A. Lesson objectives **Maximum 4 points**
 - B. Nebraska State Standards **Maximum 4 points**
 - C. Subject matter knowledge **Maximum 4 points**
 - D. Transitions **Maximum 4 points**
 - E. Use of materials and technology including: **Maximum 4 points**
 - Computers
 - Scientific Equipment
 - Audio Equipment
 - Visuals
 - Charts
 - Maps
 - Hands-on Materials
 - F. Developmentally appropriate/differentiated instruction: **Maximum 4 points**
 - Developmental Levels
 - Prior Knowledge
 - Disabilities
 - Culture
 - English Language Proficiency
 - G. Student interest/curiosity **Maximum 4 points**
2. **TEACHING:**
 - A. Effectiveness of lesson delivery: **Maximum 4 points**
 - Use of standard English
 - Voice
 - Intonation
 - Non-Verbal Communication
 - Classroom Presence
 - Enthusiasm
 - Style
 - B. Questioning **Maximum 4 points**
3. **CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT:**
 - A. Classroom Environment **Maximum 4 points**