

2027 NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE **Leadership in Education**

NPEA Awards for Excellence - Nomination Guide: **LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION**

This document is intended to help you plan for submitting an NPEA Award for Excellence nomination for the **Leadership in Education** award. Please note that NPEA members (K-12 schools and organizational members) with current, active membership are eligible to apply. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Bianca Diaz at bdiaz@npea.org.

We hope this document helps you anticipate what information you will need to gather for your submission. All nominations must be submitted through our SurveyMonkey form, via this [link](#). Please note: This year, both schools and programs will be using the **SAME nomination application** and will answer the **SAME questions**. Mailed, hard-copy, or emailed versions will NOT be accepted. All nominations are due by **Friday, November 13, 2026 at 11:59pm ET**.

NOMINATION DETAILS:

- Your First Name
- Your Last Name
- Your Organization/School Name
- Your Job Title
- Your Work Phone
- Your Work Email
- Name of the NPEA Member Program or School You Are Nominating

Please provide information for a main point of contact at the member program or school you are nominating, in case we need to reach out with any questions. *If*

you are self-nominating your program or school, this person may or may not be you.

- Nominee First and Last Name
- Nominee Main Contact Email Address
- Nominee Contact Phone Number

NOMINEE DATA:

- Year founded
- Number of students served annually
- Grade levels served
- Brief description of the NPEA Member's mission (up to 1,500 characters with spaces)
- Program/school website

**Optional, strongly encouraged: Please share up to (but no more than) five key program outcomes or data points (e.g., X% graduate college within 6 years):*

NOMINEE QUESTIONS:

To help illustrate the member's evidence of leadership in education, please respond to the questions below. For each of the questions, please limit your responses to no more than 2,000 characters with spaces (approximately 350 words max for each section, which includes any sub-questions). All questions in this section are required.

[STUDENT SUCCESS] Evidence and anecdotes of success in supporting students with educational opportunities that will lead to college and beyond.

- What are the needs of the specific population(s) the program or school serves, and how does the program work to address these needs?

[COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT] Evidence of your program or school's collaboration and partnership in the broader community and commitment to the field.

- How is the member program or school a leader in their community/ies, and in what ways do others look to the member for best practices or partnership?
- *****Please note:** For this question, we are most interested in examples of leadership and partnership from the broader, external level as opposed to specific leadership staff persons' activities.*

[CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION] Demonstrated creativity and innovation in solving problems and adapting to the changing needs of students, families, and/or the field.

- How has the member program or school demonstrated creative problem-solving in response to the needs of their students, families, and communities?

[DATA AND SUSTAINABILITY] Demonstrated commitment to data tracking and analysis, program/school improvement, and sustainability, that position the program or school for ongoing and long-term growth and success.

- How does the member program or school define its desired outcomes, and in what ways does it use data to measure progress in order to inform current and future programming (e.g., organization-wide assessments, regular internal data reviews, etc.)?
- In what ways has the member illustrated specific systems or structures to support long-term success, including but not limited to, fundraising, strategic planning, staff retention, Board involvement, etc.?

How would this Award further the program or school's work as a leader in educational access, and what would it mean for the member to win this Award?

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

If you have any additional information and/or materials you think would be helpful as a supplement to your nomination, please review the information and guidelines for supplement submissions below. You will have the option to upload up to two files and share up to two weblinks.

Please limit to **no more than four brief supplements**. Acceptable supplements should give a snapshot of the nominee that supports the application information and should be concise. Examples include:

- a news article
- a press release
- an infographic or program flyer
- an executive summary for a grant report
- a webpage or section of an organization or school website

Supplements should not include: annual reports or otherwise lengthy documents, PowerPoint decks, etc., as reviewers will not be able to consider these with the nomination.

REFERENCES:

Please upload two brief **letters of recommendation** from individuals who can speak to the nominee's qualifications for the NPEA Leadership in Education Award. References should not include staff/employees of the nominee's program/school but can serve in an advisory or volunteer capacity.

Letters of recommendation should address the following:

- How are you involved with the nominee and its work? This helps us understand your familiarity with and perspective on their work, which helps us better contextualize any comments/feedback you've shared. (1-3 sentences)
- Why do you believe the member should be considered for this year's NPEA Leadership in Education Award for Excellence? (2-4 sentences)
- Please mention anything else of note about the member's work this past year that stands out to you and that you feel deserves national recognition. (2-4 sentences)