

Title: MSEA MINORITY RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM

Policy Code: 303

Cross Reference:

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Adopted:

Revised: July 2021

April 2015

PURPOSE

To provide statewide recognition to those minority individuals who have promoted and/or demonstrated leadership in public education. These awards will recognize outstanding achievement in the areas of education, leadership, politics, and community involvement at the national, state, and local levels. A fifth category is for outstanding achievements by a member of the Maryland State Education Association-Student Program.

In this program, minority shall mean those persons designated as ethnic minority by statistics published by the United States Bureau of the Census. This designation shall specifically include Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, and American Indian/Alaska Native.

REQUIREMENTS

Awards may be given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to education in the state of Maryland and whose nomination is in compliance with the MSEA Minority Recognition Awards Program Procedures.

DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the award(s) will be by the date determined by the appropriate MSEA committees (Women's Concerns, Minority Affairs, and Human and Civil Rights) . All three committees must agree to the same nomination deadline. The deadline shall be no later than November 10 of the prior year in which the award is given. The committee chair(s) shall inform the Board president of the deadline for nominations at least four months in advance of the deadline. If more time is necessary to receive nominations past the set deadline, the committees will recommend an extension to the MSEA president.

MSEA Bylaw:

Other Citation:

NEA Bylaw:

Neg. Agr.:

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CRITERIA

The nominee should:

1. Demonstrate leadership on public education issues.
2. Foster increased public understanding of public schools in American society.
3. Promote a positive image of public education on behalf of students, parents, and educators.
4. Encourage and promote improvement in Maryland's public school system.

Categories of Awards

1. Education
 - A. A nominee must be employed in the public education system in the state of Maryland and be a member of the United Education Profession.
 - B. A nominee should show evidence of a specific contribution to the improvement of education in the state of Maryland.
2. Leadership
 - A. A nominee should show outstanding contributions on a sustained basis rather than only those performed in a single exceptional service deed.
 - B. This award category is for leadership demonstrated beyond the United Education Profession leadership positions that an individual may hold.
3. Politics: A nominee should promote, sponsor, and/or support legislation and/or governmental action that consistently promotes and enhances public education in Maryland.
4. Community: A nominee should demonstrate dedication to public education by his or her involvement in activities such as the following.
 - A. Providing individual support to students, educational employees, and parents.
 - B. Sponsoring ongoing school-related activities.
 - C. Advocating public education issues.
 - D. Consistently giving leadership, long hours, and loyalty to public education.
 - E. Presenting a positive image of public education and educators.
5. Student
 - A. A nominee must be a member of MSEA (Maryland State Education Association-Student Program).
 - B. A nominee should promote goals and policies of the United Education Profession.
 - C. A nominee should show evidence of participation in activities that further the growth of public education.

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PROCESS

1. A standing Recognition Committee shall be appointed. This committee shall be charged with the principal responsibility for making annual recognition recommendations for approval by the Board of Directors.
 - A. The Recognition Committee shall be composed of a five-member panel of the Minority Affairs Committee, consisting of the chairperson, the Board liaison, and three other committee members as appointed by the chairperson. The Board liaison shall serve as a non-voting member. No person who seconds the nomination of a potential award recipient may sit on the selection committee.
 - B. The Recognition Committee members shall be approved by the Minority Affairs Committee chairperson at the first official meeting of their term.
 - C. Committee members shall remain anonymous, except to the Board of Directors, the executive director, and the staff liaison to the Minority Affairs Committee.
 - D. The committee shall establish, with Board approval, a timeline for securing nominations and obtaining Board approval in such a manner to conform to the award(s) presentation. *ActionLine* shall appropriately publicize the awards, nomination procedures, and dates.
2. Nomination procedures.
 - A. Anyone submitting the established nomination form and seconding form must be an active or retired (includes life) member of either NEA or MSEA.
 - B. Completed nomination forms and supporting documents are to be mailed to MSEA headquarters and must be received no later than November 10 of the year in which the award is to be given. All nomination forms must bear the signature of the person making the nomination along with his/her home address and the signatures of four (4) seconders. The nomination form must also be accompanied by supporting materials and a form signed by the nominee indicating he/she has knowledge of the nomination. In addition the nomination should include a typed or printed biographical sketch of the nominee as well as support materials such as copies of newspaper clippings, certificates and/or citations. NOTE: Support material provided must relate directly to the specific criterion or criteria for which the candidate is being nominated.
 - C. Members of the Minority Affairs Committee during the year of the award are ineligible to receive the award. A member of the Minority Affairs Committee may not nominate a potential recipient, but may second a nomination. Only one second or any nomination may come from a member of the committee.

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- D. Present officers and members of the Board of Directors of MSEA and members of the Minority Affairs Committee are ineligible to receive this award, to nominate, or to second the nomination of a potential recipient.
 - E. The Board of Directors as a body may, by a unanimous vote of Board members present and voting, nominate a group or an elected or appointed individual outside the United Education Profession. The Board of Directors must follow the procedural requirements outlined above.
 - F. The nominating forms will be available, upon request, from the staff liaison of the Minority Affairs Committee at MSEA headquarters or on the MSEA website at www.marylandeducators.org.
 - i. The nomination form will provide spaces for the signatures of four (4) seconders to the nomination and spaces for the name of the employer of such seconders.
 - ii. All seconders must be active, retired (includes life), or members of the MSEA Student Program.
3. Selection Process
- A. The committee shall meet to review all nominations in the course of its regular business.
 - B. The committee may offer a substitute recommendation if, upon consideration of the data submitted, the Board of Directors rejects one or more of the committee's recommendations.
 - C. The committee will present its recommendations to the MSEA Board of Directors for final approval.
 - D. It is recommended that not more than a total of thirteen (13) awards be presented in any one year.
 - E. The decision of the Board will be final. Letters to nominators will indicate the finality of the Board's decision.
 - F. The committee shall consult with the appropriate local affiliate concerning any proposed awardee and report its findings to the Board when it makes its recommendations.

PRESENTATION

The award(s) shall be presented annually at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards breakfast.

MSEA Bylaw:

Other Citation:

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Neg. Agr.: