



MSEA Ethnic Minority Recognition Awards Policy and Guidance

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-Aspiring Educators Program.

In this program, ethnic minority shall mean those persons of a culturally, ethnically, or racially distinct group that coexists with but has historically been in a position of less power or authority than a more dominant group.

CATEGORIES OF AWARDS:

Education

- A nominee must be employed in the public education system in the state of Maryland and be a member of the United Education Profession.
- A nominee should show evidence of a specific contribution to the improvement of education in the state of Maryland.

Leadership

- A nominee should show outstanding contributions on a sustained basis rather than only those performed in a single exceptional service deed.
- This award category is for leadership demonstrated beyond the United Education Profession leadership positions that an individual may hold.

Politics

- A nominee should promote, sponsor, and/or support legislation and/or governmental action that consistently promotes and enhances public education in Maryland.

Community



- A nominee should demonstrate dedication to public education by their involvement in activities such as the following.
 - Providing individual support to students, educational employees, and parents.
 - Sponsoring ongoing school-related activities.
 - Advocating public education issues.
 - Consistently giving leadership, long hours, and loyalty to public education.
 - Presenting a positive image of public education and educators.

Student

- A nominee must be a member of the Maryland State Education Association-Aspiring Educators (AE) Program.
- A nominee should promote the goals and policies of the United Education Profession.
- A nominee should show evidence of participation in activities that further the growth of public education.

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 Ethnic Minority Recognition Awards Program Procedures.

NOMINEES:

The nominees should:

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

NOMINATORS:



- Anyone submitting the established nomination form and seconding form must be an active, retired (includes life), student member, or staff of MSEA (or NEA).
- All nomination forms must include:
 - The name, local affiliation, and home contact information of the primary nominator and the secondary nominators, as well as their signatures;
 - Current contact information (primary email and phone) for the nominee; and
 - Information about the nominee (such as a biographical sketch) and support materials (such as newsletters, newspaper or periodical articles, certificates, citations, printed programs and/or fliers) that relate directly to the specific criterion or criteria for which the candidate is being nominated.
- As part of the nomination process, the primary nominator should inform the nominee that they are being considered for the award.

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 for any nomination may come from a member of the committee. Present MSEA officers and members of the Board of Directors are ineligible to receive this award, to nominate, or to second the nomination of a potential recipient.

The MSEA 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.

The nominating application can be found on the MSEA website at www.marylandeducators.org/Awards. Hard copies of the application are available, upon request, from the staff liaison of the Minority Affairs Committee at MSEA headquarters.

DEADLINE:

Completed nomination forms and supporting documents are to be submitted electronically via the MSEA website or emailed, faxed, or mailed to MSEA headquarters (140 Main Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, Attention: Minority Affairs Committee). Submissions must be received **no later than 11:59 pm on November 1** of the prior year in which the award is to be given.