

Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association 2011-2012 Elementary Teacher Excellence Award General Information

The Teacher Excellence Award is one of the highest honors given to Technology and Engineering Education classroom teachers and is presented in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the profession and their students. The Teacher Excellence Award provides public recognition at the local, regional, state and international levels. On the state level, a VTEEA special recognition and awards dinner is provided during the VTEEA Annual Summer Conference. During the ITEEA annual conference, the honoree is formally presented an internationally engraved plaque and other awards.

Who is Eligible?

Candidates for the Teacher Excellence Award must be characterized as providing Technology and Engineering Education instruction of high quality, learner centered and relevant to a study of technology. Mandatory requirements include:

- The teacher must be nominated by an educator.
- The teacher must be a current member and have held membership for the preceding year in both VTEEA and ITEEA.
- The teacher must hold a teaching license and be knowledgeable about the processes for teaching technology in grades K-5.
- The teacher's superiors must concur that he/she is a professional worthy of being considered an outstanding educator.

NOTE: Current members of the VTEEA Board of Directors are not eligible for this award until their term on the Board of Directors ends.

Selection Process:

ITEEA provides its affiliated associations with recommended selection and criteria procedures to use in choosing its honoree. Once nominated, the following schedule is followed.

As Scheduled:

Award and public announcement made at the VTEEA annual summer conference (usually in August).

December 1:

Nomination of the Teacher Excellence candidate application packet is mailed to the VTEEA Teacher of the Year Committee.

Late July - Early August:

Award presented at VTEEA Annual Summer Conference.

Note: Names submitted by December 1 will be printed in the conference program. Names received after February 1 will be honored the following year.

Late March-Early April:

Award presented at ITEEA Annual Conference.

For additional information contact the Teacher Excellence Awards Committee Chair:

Mr. Jorge Valenzuela, Instructional Specialist
Richmond City Public Schools
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Teacher Excellence Awards

The **Teacher Excellence Awards** program was established to identify outstanding technology teachers who will serve as models for their colleagues and who could form a leadership core to affect change in the field. Separate Teacher Excellence Awards are available for elementary school, middle school and high school teachers. VTEEA and ITEEA will recognize only one teacher at each school level.

Teachers who are nominated for Teacher Excellence Awards should demonstrate the following evidence:

- Exemplary teaching characteristics including subject-matter competence, enthusiasm for teaching, sensitivity to student learning needs, and good communication skills.
- An understanding of Technology and Engineering Education as basic education for all students.
- Sustained professional growth in Technology and Engineering Education and in the art of teaching.
- Ability to engage students in a hands-on/minds-on approach to learning about technology.
- Ability to foster curiosity and generate excitement about learning to understand and apply technology concepts and practices.
- A conviction that all students should and can learn about technology and apply its principles in everyday life.
- An understanding of the relationships between technology and other areas of study in the school.
- An experimental and innovative attitude in their approach to teaching.
- Professional involvement and leadership.

Teacher Excellence Awards Elementary School Awards

Requirement for the Award

Eligibility criteria:

All candidates for the **Teacher Excellence Award** must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be a full-time professional employee of the school division.
- Have a full-time elementary school teaching position in a public or private school.
- Have taught elementary school Technology and Engineering Education units or activities for at least two years prior to nomination.
- Must be recognized by the school's administration as being worthy of recognition as an outstanding teacher.
- Is a current member of the VTEEA and ITEEA at the time of receiving the award and has been a member of both associations for the previous year.

Award criteria:

- Elementary teacher recipients must:
- Exemplify excellence in teaching.
- Teach activities or units of instruction that would be considered good Technology and Engineering Education using state or national standards.
- Be committed to continuing professional development.
- Contribute to the profession through on-going service.

Award applications

Each applicant for the elementary school **Teacher Excellence Award** must submit a set of materials using the format shown below. These materials must be submitted to the VTEEA Teacher Excellence Award committee.

- A completed **Personal Data Form**
- A summary that describes the candidate's philosophy of the role of Technology and Engineering Education in the elementary school.
- A set of materials as outlined in the **Teacher Excellence Award Evaluation Form**.
- Letters of support for the nomination.
- A sample of a Technology and Engineering Education activity or unit that is used in the candidate's classroom. The activity or unit must be presented in a format that can be shared with elementary school teachers. The source of the activity must be clearly cited.
- Three (3) color photos in jpg or power point.

Teacher Excellence Award Documentation Checklist Elementary School Awards

(Each applicant should prepare the following documentation to support his or her application. The documentation should be submitted in a binder with clearly labeled section dividers.)

Evidence of talent in teaching: (Maximum 4 pages)

- GOALS:** Include the goals for the Technology and Engineering Education units or activities you use. *High ranking is given for goals that emphasize a broad understanding of technology and its application through problem solving and group work.*
- THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** Include a description of the ways you organize and manage the Technology and Engineering Education activities in your classroom. *High ranking is given to a learning environment that is flexible, accepts a variety of answers to a given technological problem, that is accepting of failure, and that expects students to accept major responsibility in structuring their learning tasks.*
- EFFECTIVENESS:** Identify the ways your teaching meets the needs of a diverse student population. *High ranking is given to teachers who address the needs of varying levels of ability, provide activities that will interest both males and females, and connect the study of technology with other disciplines and the world outside the school.*
- ASSESSMENT:** Explain how you assess student progress. *High ranking is given to teachers who use a variety of techniques to determine what students have learned about and can do with technology.*

Evidence of Technology and Engineering Education practices: (Maximum 4 pages)

- FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS:** Include content outlines for your Technology and Engineering Education activities or units. *High ranking is given for concepts that are fundamental for all students regardless of gender or ability.*
- CREATIVE IDEAS:** Explain how Technology and Engineering Education activities you use involve creative use of the classroom. *High ranking is given for activities that show creative use of resources and unique approaches in helping students understand technology.*
- GLOBAL CONTEXT:** Identify ways your teaching helps students understand the impacts of technology on people, society, and the environment and how technology relates to citizenship, consumer, and career roles. *High ranking is given to teachers who relate technology to the world outside the school.*

Background and experience (Maximum 1 page)

- TRAINING AND EDUCATION:** Include collegiate education, professional development experiences, and conference attendance. *High ranking is given to teachers who are academically prepared to teach elementary school and see that they must maintain their expertise through a continuing education program.*
- PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT:** Include your involvement with professional associations. *High ranking is given to teachers who contribute to their profession through involvement with professional associations and societies.*

Letters of support (Minimum 3)

Teacher Excellence Award Data Form

(All information must be completed by the candidate. Please type or print.)

Personal Data:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: () _____ ITEEA Membership No.: _____

Education: (degrees and institutions)

Teaching Certificates held:

Number of years in education: _____

Number of years teaching Technology and Engineering Education: _____

Number of years in present teaching position: _____

Present teaching assignment: (courses taught and grade level)

Affiliated participation: (offices held, committee assignments, conference presentations, etc.)

VTEEA and ITEEA participation: (offices held, committee assignments, conference presentations, etc.)

School Data:

School Building Name: _____

Principal's Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

School Telephone: () _____

Building enrollment: _____ Grades included in the building: _____

Number of technology teachers in the building: _____ In the district: _____

Technology and Engineering Education enrollment: (students per year) _____

Percentage: Males _____ **Females** _____

School District Name: _____

Superintendent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

District Telephone: () _____

School Location: ___ Rural ___ Suburban ___ Inner City ___ Other (specify) _____

Statement of Belief: (no more than **50 words**)

This I believe about Technology and Engineering Education in preparing students for their future:

Teacher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Deadline: December 1

Return application packet to:
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