

Virginia Technology Education Association 2011-2012 Middle School Teacher Excellence Award

The Teacher Excellence Award is one of the highest honors given to Technology 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 VTEA special recognition and awards dinner is provided during the VTEA Annual Summer Conference. During the ITEA 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 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 VTEA and ITEA.
- The teacher must hold a teaching license and be knowledgeable about the processes for teaching technology in grades 6-8.
- The teacher's superiors must concur that he/she is a professional worthy of being considered an outstanding educator.

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

Selection Process:

ITEA 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 VTEA annual summer conference (usually in August).

December 1:

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

Late July - Early August:

Award presented at VTEA 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 ITEA Annual Conference.

For additional information contact the Teacher Excellence Awards Committee Chair:

Mr. Jorge Valenzuela, Instructional Specialist
Richmond City Public Schools
301 N. 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804 780-5816 (w), 804 780-7786 (f)
jvalenzu@richmond.k12.va.us

Virginia Technology Education Association 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. VTEA and ITEA 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 education as basic education for all students.
- Sustained professional growth in technology 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.

Middle School Teacher Excellence Awards

Requirement for the Award

Eligibility criteria:

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

- Must be certified to teach technology education and must be a full-time professional employee of the school division.
- Have a full-time technology education teaching position (at least four periods a day) in a public or private school in Virginia.
- Have taught technology education for at least five 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 VTEA and ITEA at the time of receiving the award and has been a member of both associations for the previous year.

Award criteria:

All recipients must:

- Exemplify excellence in teaching.
- Teach courses that represent good technology education using accepted state and national standards.
- Be committed to continuing professional development.
- Contribute to the profession through on-going service.

Award applications

Each application for the middle school **Teacher Excellence Award** must submit the following materials to the VTEA Teacher of the Year Selection Committee:

- A completed ***Personal Data Form***.
- A summary that describes the candidate's philosophy of technology education and the role technology education plays in developing students for the future.
- A set of materials as outlined in the **Teacher Excellence Award Evaluation Form**.
- Letters of support for the nomination.
- A sample of an activity that is used in one of the candidate's technology education courses. The activity must be presented in a format that can be shared with other technology education teachers. The source of the activity must be clearly indicated.
- Three prints or 3 color slides showing the applicant interacting with students.

Teacher Excellence Award Documentation Checklist Middle School Awards

(Each applicant should prepare the following documentation to support his or her application. The documentation must be submitted to the VTEA Teacher of the Year Selection Committee in a binder with labeled section dividers.)

Evidence of talent in teaching: (Maximum 6 pages)

- GOALS:** Include your goals for technology education. *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 learning in your technology education laboratory. *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 the 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 student progress is assessed. *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 education practices: (Maximum 6 pages)

- FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS:** Include content outlines for at least one course taught. *High ranking is given for concepts that are fundamental for all students regardless of gender or career goal, and their need for technological literacy.*
- CREATIVE IDEAS:** Include activities that show that you use creative activities in 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 2 pages)

- TRAINING AND EDUCATION:** Include collegiate education, professional development experiences, and conference attendance. *High ranking is given to teachers who are academically prepared to teach technology education and who maintain their expertise through a continuing education program.*
- PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT:** Include your involvement with professional associations at the local, state/provincial, national, and international level. *High ranking is given to teachers that contribute to the growth of their profession through involvement with professional associations and societies.*

Letters of support (Minimum 3)

Purpose: To determine the level of support that exists from colleagues, administrators, parents, and/or students for the candidate's nomination for a **Teacher Excellence Award**.

Comments:

Teacher Excellence Award Data Form Middle School

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

Personal Data:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

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

Education: (degrees and institutions)

Teaching Certificates held:

Number of years in education: _____

Number of years teaching technology 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.)

ITEA 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 division: _____

Technology education enrollment: (students per year) _____

Percentage: Males _____ **Females** _____

School Division Name: _____

Superintendent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Division Telephone: () _____

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

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

This I believe about technology education in preparing students for their future:

Teacher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Deadline: December 1

Return application packet to:
Mr. Jorge Valenzuela, Instructional Specialist
Richmond City Public Schools
301 N. 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804 780-5816 (w), 804 780-7786 (f)
jvalenzu@richmond.k12.va.us

Revised: 08/01/11gw