**Award/Recognition Opportunities 2015-2016**

**American Association of School Personnel Administrators**

<https://aaspa.org>

**Nomination deadlines (all categories): mid-May**

**Herb Salinger Personnel Administrator Of The Year Award**

Criteria:

* Active member of AASPA who has distinguished him/herself in personnel administration at the local, state/province, national and/or international level.
* Involved and a contributing participant in local, state/province, national and/or international personnel functions and/or programs.
* Contributions have had significant impact on public education at the local, state/province, national and/or international level.
* Skilled manager of change and is creative in his/her approach to personnel administration
* approaches personnel administrative work with a sense of humor and a sense of respect for his/her fellow man.
* Currently serving in a personnel administrative position.

**Raymond E. Curry Award**

The Raymond E. Curry Award is a competitive monetary award granted to an AASPA member for dues, special assessments, and the annual conference registration fees (exclusive of events and meals). Candidates are considered on the basis of seeking assistance in research effort directly related to personnel administration or in a professional development activity – particularly where financial need is strongly demonstrated; participation in AASPA activities; participation in local affiliate or regional activities; education record; personal achievements (based on employment record, awards, honors, and publications); and special work or contributions to the school personnel field.

**Honorary Membership Awards**

Honorary membership is granted to persons who have distinguished themselves in school personnel work. Honorary members shall be entitled to participate in all activities of AASPA, except voting and holding elective offices. They are also exempt from payment of membership dues, special assessments and the Annual Conference registration fees (exclusive of events and meals). Non-members who have made an outstanding contribution to AASPA and/or school personnel administration are eligible for honorary membership.

**Special Recognition Award**

Special recognition awards are presented to individuals who have made substantial contributions to AASPA, advancing or enhancing the professional visibility of the association and its purposes and/or the field of school personnel administration.

**Human Resources Specialist/Support Staff Award**

The Human Resources Specialist/Support Staff Award is given to an individual whose contributions have had significant impact on the efficiency of the human resources office and to the field of human resources

* Individual at the local, state/province, national, and/or international level distinguished him/herself through leadership service.
* Collaborative, contributing participant in personnel functions and/or programs.

**New Member Award**

The New Member Award is given to an active member of AASPA who has less than 3 years of experience in the field.

* This individual has demonstrated involvement at the local, state/province, national, and/or international level though new to the field.
* Has distinguished him/herself in personnel administration through contributions that have had an impact on public education.
* Active AASPA member.
* Currently serving in a personnel position.

**C. S. Robinson Award**

The C.S. Robinson Award is awarded to school districts that have made an outstanding contribution to the solution of a specific personnel challenge. The entry must describe processes and procedures used by the district that demonstrate a clear connection of teacher induction and retention programming that contributes to student achievement. Please complete the nomination form and submit a copy of the district’s induction and retention program.

**William L. Hunter Point Of Light Award**

Point of Light Award gives recognition to school districts making outstanding contributions through the implementation of innovative and comprehensive teacher development programs primarily focused upon strategies designed to increase the number of teachers of color in school districts.

**Website Development Award**

AASPA Website award is given to the school district whose Personnel or Human Resources Department has most effectively managed to leverage the power of the Internet to provide communication to and gather information from current and prospective employees. Websites will be evaluated on:

* Comprehensiveness of information available.
* Interactivity (on-line forms, application, etc.).
* User friendliness.
* Overall look and appeal.

**Newsletter Award Program**

* Open to all state/province/private organizations that publish a newsletter for their members at least annually.
* Newsletters are judged on content and layout.

**American School Counselor Association**

[www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)

***Nomination deadlines (all categories): Late October***

**School Counselor of the Year Awards**

Criteria:

ASCA's School Counselor of the Year® program honors the best of the best – school counselors who are running a top-notch, comprehensive school counseling program at either the elementary, middle or high school level. This program brings up to 10 finalists to Washington, D.C., in conjunction with National School Counseling Week each January/February, where they participate in a congressional briefing, meet with their members of Congress, tour Washington, D.C., and are honored at the School Counselor of the Year Gala. From these finalists, one school counselor of the year is selected.

**ASCA Model Program (RAMP)**

Criteria:

Drive your school counseling program to the next level. Show your administrators, school board and the community at large that you're committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. Learn more about the applying for the RAMP designation.

**Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO)**<http://www.aasbo.org/?page=Awards>

***Nomination deadlines (all categories): early spring***

**Member of the Year**

Criteria:  
All members receiving a Gold Award are eligible for the Member of the Year Award. The AASBO Board of Directors selects the recipient of the award.

**Pete Perkins Memorial Scholarship**

Criteria:  
Following the death of Pete Perkins, this scholarship was set up to preserve the memory of Pete and the work he had done for the Association.

**William Lovett Memorial Award**

Criteria:  
AASBO set up the Memorial Award shortly after the death of AASBO's first Executive Director, William Lovett, and it has been presented each year to an outstanding member for his/her contribution to the organization.

**The Chuck Essigs Award**

Criteria:  
Named in honor of AASBO’s distinguished Director of Government Relations – recognizes the outstanding service to education in Arizona that Essigs has represented through a career dedicated to public education. The AASBO Board of Directors follows these guidelines when considering the award:

* The award does not necessarily need to be given every year – only when a suitable nominee is received and voted on by the Board of Directors.
* Nominations may be from non-AASBO members.
* Nominations for potential recipients are to be submitted by members of the Board of Directors.

**Members Gold/Silver/Certificate Award Program**

Criteria:  
The Member Awards Program is designed to honor individual members whose contributions are particularly noteworthy and is awarded annually at the AASBO Summer Conference. The program is voluntary and conducted on the honor system.

**Arizona Educational Foundation**

**A+ School of Excellence**<http://azedfoundation.org/2016-a-school-of-excellence-application-2/>

***Nomination deadline: January 15, 2016***

Criteria:  
To be considered for the A+ School of Excellence™ award, the following criteria must be met:

* The school must be a public, or public charter school with some combination of grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.
* The school must have achieved a letter grade of “A” or “B” according to the Arizona Department of Education’s A-F Accountability system in 2014.
* The school must be in at least its sixth full year of operation in its current (or similar) grade configuration when the application is submitted.
* The school’s principal must have completed at least two full years as leader of the applicant school when the application is submitted (NOTE: beginning in 2016-17, a principal will need to have completed at least THREE years as leader of the applicant school).
* The school must not have been recognized as an A+ School of Excellence™ in 2013, 2014 or 2015. Previously recognized schools are eligible to reapply after their three and ½ year status has expired.
* The school or school district is not refusing Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district-wide compliance review.
* The OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated school or the district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan from the district to remedy the violation.
* The US Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the nominated school or the school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.

**Teacher of the Year**<http://azedfoundation.org/programs/teacher-of-the-year/toy-application/>

***Nomination deadline: Teacher-completed applications are due August 28, 2015 for the 2016 AZ Teacher of the Year award.***

Criteria:  
Eligibility requirements appear in the application; They are, in part:

* Spend the majority (over 50%) of the school day in direct instruction to students.
* Currently be certified to teach in Arizona.
* Have completed at least four (4) full years as a classroom teacher at the time the application is submitted for consideration.
* Teach any grade or combination of grades Prekindergarten through 12 in a traditional district or charter public school in Arizona.
* Be a full-time teacher and plan to continue in an active teaching status through 2016.
* Not have been selected as an AEF Teacher of the Year, Semi-Finalist, or Ambassador for Excellence in the past.

**Polly Rosenbaum Writing Award**  
<http://azedfoundation.org/aef/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/16-Criteria-Form.pdf>

***Nomination deadline: December 18, 2015***

Criteria:

Students must submit a creative writing piece, i.e. an essay, poem, story, play, NOT just a factual report based on the prompt: “What Does It Mean To Be Civically Engaged?” The entry must be typed, no smaller than 12-point font, double-spaced, no less than one-inch margins all around with a maximum of 500 words. Each student must complete and sign the Entry Form, which must be stapled to each entry. The name of the student author should only be put on the entry form— not the writing piece.

**Arizona Health & Physical Education**<http://www.azhpe.org/awards/>

**Nomination deadline (all categories): September 1**

Categories:

* Elementary Physical Education
* Middle School Physical Education
* Dance
* Health
* Adapted Physical Education
* Recreation Leisure Professional
* Rookie of the Year
* Administrator

Criteria:

* Current membership in AAHPERD for District.
* Certification as a teacher.
* Minimum of five years teaching experience in their field.
* Full-time teaching contract, current at the time of nomination and selection at the highest level.
* Minimum of 60% of total teaching responsibility in their teaching field.

The applicant must be a teacher who:

* Conducts a quality program as reflected in NASPE standards and guidelines for K-12 programs.
* Utilizes various teaching methodologies and plans innovative learning experiences to meet the needs of all students.
* Serves as a positive role model epitomizing personal health, fitness, recreation and Dance and enjoyment of activity, sportsmanship, and sensitivity to the needs of students.
* Participates in professional development opportunities.
* Provides service to the profession through leadership, presentations, and/or writing.

**Arizona Middle Level Association**<https://sites.google.com/site/arizonamiddlelevelassociation/amla-awards>

**Nomination deadline (all categories): February**

**AMLA Middle Level Educator of the Year Award**

Criteria:  
This annual award recognizes one outstanding educator from each AMLA member school for his or her commitment to middle level education.  Nominations are made by participating AMLA school principals.

**AMLA Teams That Make a Difference Award**

Criteria:

This annual award honors exemplary middle school teams who are making significant efforts to support middle level students and parents.  Nominations are made by participating AMLA school principals.

**Arizona Physical Therapy Association**<http://aptaaz.org/?page=98>

Nomination deadline (all categories): September 1

**PT of the Year**

Criteria:  
A physical therapist who in the past year has demonstrated significant cooperation in the areas of education, legislation, membership, practice, community service and public relations.

**PTA of the Year**

Criteria:  
A physical therapist assistant who in the past year has demonstrated significant cooperation in the areas of education, legislation, membership, practice and public relations.

**Pauline Wampler Service Award**

Criteria:  
The Nominee shall have demonstrated exceptional, sustained service in three of the following areas:

* Leadership: May include service as a Delegate, Committee or Task Force Chair or member, or former member of the BOD.
* Promotion of the Profession: Has made significant and sustained contributions to the promotion, publicity and development of physical therapy as a profession.
* Collaboration: In their collaboration with other professional organizations, this individual enhances other organizations’ understanding and appreciation of the mission, scope, and work of AzPTA.
* Legislative: Has made significant and lasting contributions to the writing, monitoring, and promotion of the physical therapy practice act to ensure safe and competent physical therapy practice.
* Education: Has made significant and lasting contributions to the education of physical therapy students, continuing education of physical therapy members for continued competence, or mentoring of physical therapy members toward development of the profession.

**Arizona School Administrators (ASA)**<http://www.azsa.org/>

**AASA National Superintendent of the Year**http://soy.aasa.org/

***Nomination deadline: August 1, 2015  
Completed online application: October 1, 2015***

(members only access)

**All AZ Superintendent Award**  
<http://www.azsa.org/awards/>

***Nomination deadline: October 8, 2015***

Application Criteria:

* Must have been an Arizona Superintendent for at least three years prior to this year.
* Has not received this Award during the preceding five years.
* Is an active member of ASA. Please call ASA if you need to check on membership.

Selection Criteria:  
The administrator must demonstrate outstanding:

* Relations with the Board, public, and community
* Leadership in curriculum and instruction, and management of student activities
* Short and long term planning
* Personnel, business, and financial management
* Personal and professional qualities

**NASSP/Virco National Assistant Principal**  
<https://nasspawards.org/apoy/>

***Nomination deadline: October 16, 2015***

Criteria:  
See selection rubric: <http://nasspawards.org/apoy/files/APOY%20Selection%20Criteria%20and%20Rubric%202016.pdf>

**NAESP/VALIC National Distinguished Principal**  
access through: <http://www.azsa.org/awards/>

***Nomination deadline: early March***

Criteria:   
The nominee is a practicing principal with at least five years of experience in the principalship, who plans to continue as a practicing principal. The principal must demonstrate evidence of outstanding contributions to the community and to the education profession and should lead a school that:

* Must be a member of NAESP at the time of the award;
* Is clearly committed to excellence;
* Has programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students; and
* Has firm ties to parents and the community.

**NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal**access through: <http://www.azsa.org/awards/>

***Nomination deadline: early March***

Criteria:

* Applicant must be a member of the National Association of Elementary School Principals at the time of nomination.
* Applicant must be an active assistant principal at the time of nomination.
* Applicant must be an active assistant principal for at least two years.
* Applicant’s school must be committed to excellence through programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students.
* Applicant’s school must have firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations.
* Applicant must be respected by students, colleagues, parents, and the community at-large.
* Applicant shows strong educational leadership by setting high expectations for school staff and students.
* Applicant must exhibit exceptional leadership in a particular school program and/or is heavily involved in finding a solution to a problem faced by the school.

**NASSP National Principal of the Year**  
<https://nasspawards.org/poy/>

***Nomination deadline: early March***

Criteria:  
Applicants must have served as a principal at one or more middle level or high schools for three or more consecutive school years.

* Each candidate must be a principal, headmaster, or leader at a middle level or high school and a member of NASSP and his or her state affiliate association at the time of selection or tenure as state principal of the year. For national finalists, these conditions must also be met at the time of national principal of the year interviews, when the national winners are announced, and during tenure.
* Personal Excellence
* Collaborative Leadership
* Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
* Personalization

**Dr. Raymond Sterling Kellis Leadership Award**<http://www.azsa.org/awards/>

***Nomination deadline: early March***

Criteria:

* Demonstrates a vision of a better life for children through education Exhibits ethical conduct of the highest order Possesses strong moral convictions
* Participates actively as a civic leader Mentors aspiring, new and veteran administrators Values and sees the best in others
* Nominated by other(s) and not self
* Member of Arizona School Administrators

**ASA Distinguished Administrator**<http://www.azsa.org/awards/>

***Nomination deadline: early March***

Criteria:

* Active member of ASA and been a member at least six months.
* The Administrator acts to produce a positive climate, high morale among students, staff and colleagues, and improved educational programs and student achievement.
* The Administrator is moving successfully to implement the philosophy and goals of the school/district.
* The Administrator involves the community in the life of the school/district and builds community support for education.
* The Administrator is involved in community services outside contractual obligations.
* The Administrator is involved in professional growth education and membership in professional associations.
* Must not have received this Award within the past five years (including this school year).

**Elementary Principal Rookie of the Year**<http://www.azsa.org/awards/>

***Nomination deadline: early March***

Criteria:

* The nominee must be a member of ASA.
* The nominee must be a new Elementary Principal of 1-3 years.
* Currently an elementary principal.
* Current member of ASA.
* Principal for three or fewer years.
* Demonstrates leadership qualities.
* As a leader, acts to produce a positive climate, high morale among students, staff and colleagues.
* The principal involves the community in the life of the school/district and builds community support for education.
* The principal is moving successfully to implement the philosophy and goals of the school district.
* Be nominated by the Superintendent/Supervisor.

**Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA)**[**http://www.azsba.org/**](http://www.azsba.org/)

**2015 Barbara Robey Lifetime Achievement Award**<http://www.azsba.org/search/barbara+robey>

***Nomination deadline: July 28, 2015   
Nomination packet deadline: Aug. 21, 2015***

Criteria:

* Each nominee will be judged, first and foremost, on the impact of his or her service on public education throughout Arizona.
* The outstanding service performed must have significantly benefitted the students and/or staff of ASBA member districts over time.
* The nominee’s public image and character will be of paramount consideration, as well.
* Nominees may have been the recipient of other awards presented by ASBA in past years.

**The Lou Ella Kleinz Award of Excellence**

<http://www.azsba.org/lou-ella-kleinz/>

***Nomination deadline: October 30, 2015***

Criteria:

ASBA’s highest honor for a full board. The winning board will have shown board initiative, action and leadership in the following areas:

* Focuses on students
* Demonstrates progress in achieving goals
* Fosters increased parental involvement
* Develops collaboration with social agencies and/or community groups, including other governing bodies
* Creates a school community which fosters quality performance and innovation

**The All-Arizona School Board Award**<http://www.azsba.org/all-arizona/>

***Nomination deadline: October 30, 2015***

Criteria:

ASBA’s highest individual board member honor.

* The nominated board member is currently serving on a governing board, which is a member of the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA).
* The nominated board member has never before received the All-Arizona School Board Award.
* Only one nomination may be made by a district governing board each year.
* The nominated board member was elected at least once. If appointed to fill out a term, the nominated board member was elected following their appointment.
* Consideration was given to the following:
  + How the board member has shown concern for students of the school system as well as for the staff and patrons of the district.
  + That the board member has thoroughly interpreted board action to the district staff and the community.
  + What the board member has done to show excellence in boardsmanship.
  + How the board member has used foresight in planning.
  + How well the board member has worked with other board members.
  + How the board member's efforts are in the best interest of all concerned.
  + How the board member has worked to improve his or her knowledge of school problems.
  + A single act or series of acts by the board member, which has significantly helped the school system.

**The Honor Roll Award**  
<http://www.azsba.org/honor-roll-award/>

***Nomination deadline: October 30, 2015***

Criteria:

The Honor Roll Awardrecognizes board members with more than eight consecutive years of service who are retiring. The recipients have either retired since the last annual conference or are planning to do so after serving at least two consecutive terms (at least eight years of service) on their boards.

The nominee must meet the criteria stated above. In addition:

* Before submittal, the school board on which the nominee serves/served takes action to endorse the nomination.
* The official, online entry form is completed fully.

**The ASBA Golden Bell Award**  
<http://www.azsba.org/golden-bell/>

***Nomination deadline: October 30, 2015***

Criteria:

The Golden Bell recognizes school programs from throughout the state that have shown outstanding successes in student achievement.

Programs selected to receive the Golden Bell must be:

* student-oriented
* have made a significant difference in student achievement
* demonstrate evidence of teacher creativity and demonstrate district leadership in the management of instruction.
* The nomination must show implementation dates to indicate the program has been in operation for at least two years, not include planning and development time.

Awards are presented in four categories: Elementary (pre-k through grade 6), Middle Years (grades 4-9), High School (grades 9-12), and District-wide Curriculum Delivery and Accountability.

**The Jack Peterson Student Photography Contest**<http://www.azsba.org/jack-peterson-photo/>

***Nomination deadline: October 30, 2015***

Criteria:

The Jack Peterson Student Photography Contest recognizes student achievement in photography.

Entries will be judged in two categories: K-8 and 9-12. The following general rules apply to students in grades K-8 and 9-12. Additional rules apply to students in grade 9-12. The general theme of the contest is “Arizona Outdoors.” Images may include, but are not limited to, landscapes, cityscapes, nature photography and architectural photography. Indoor studio photography is not allowed. View last year’s winners, on Flickr.

Work entered may not have been awarded a prize in another contest.

* Limit one entry per student.
* Both color and black-and-white submissions are acceptable.
* Entries must be submitted in 8×10 or larger digital format (jpeg/jpg), with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

**Arizona School Personnel Administrator Association (ASPAA)**aspaa.org

**Personnel Administrator of the Year**

*Nomination deadline: November 7*

1. Criteria:  
   A narrative of not longer than two (2) pages that explains how the nominee:
   1. Promotes a positive professional climate within his/her district,
   2. Supports and implements the mission and goals of the district, and
   3. Is involved in professional growth education and maintains membership in professional associations.
2. A letter of recommendation from someone other than the person nominating the candidate.

**ASPRA (Arizona School Public Relations Association)**<http://azaspra.schoolwires.net/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>

***Nomination deadline (all categories): Typically late January/early February for all awards***

**School District for Overall Excellence in Public Relations**

Criteria:

* Recognizes complete public relations programs incorporating sound research, analysis, communication and evaluation components.
* Maintains and improves communication with staff, parents, students and community.
* Demonstrates district leadership and high ideals of professionalism.
* Shows evidence of creativity.

**School District for Excellence with a Specific Program**

Criteria:

* Recognizes a specific public relations program that incorporates sound research, analysis, communication and evaluation components.
* Maintains and improves communication with staff, parents, students and community.
* Demonstrates district leadership and high ideals of professionalism.
* Shows evidence of creativity.

**Governing Board Member for Contributions to Public Relations**

Criteria:

* Demonstrates commitment to good communications
* Demonstrates support of school public relations through:
  + budgetary support of a school public relations office and its professionals
  + clear public support of overall public relations plan
  + making public relations a key component of the district’s strategic plan
* Demonstrates outstanding understanding of public relations principles
* Demonstrates district leadership and high ideals of professionalism
* Demonstrates the ability to work with staff, parents and community for the benefit of students

**Superintendent for Contributions to Public Relations**

Criteria:

* Demonstrates commitment to good communications
* Demonstrates support of school public relations
* Demonstrates outstanding understanding of public relations principles
* Demonstrates leadership and high ideals of professionalism
* Demonstrates the ability to work with staff, parents and community for the benefit of students

**Individual for Contributions to Public Relations**

Criteria:

* Demonstrates commitment to good communications
* Demonstrates support of school public relations
* Demonstrates outstanding understanding of public relations principles
* Demonstrates leadership and high ideals of professionalism
* Demonstrates the ability to work with staff, parents and community for the benefit of students Nominee is not currently employed by a school district in a communications position

**Government Official for Contributions to Education**

Criteria:

* Demonstrates support for education through legislative actions, lobbying efforts and involvement with local school districts and community for the benefit of students

**News Media for Excellence in Education Reporting of a Story or Series on a Particular Topic**

Criteria:

* Reporter is fair, accurate and objective
* Reporter maintains a high degree of professionalism
* Reporter increases public understanding of the inherent values of education, particularly in Arizona
* Reporter informs and educates readership on the roles of education in society
* Reporter discloses practices or procedures in need of correction or improvement so as to encourage and promote local, state and national efforts to improve education

**News Media for Consistent and Accurate Reporting on Education**

Criteria:

* Reporter is fair, accurate and objective
* Reporter maintains a high degree of professionalism
* Reporter increases public understanding of the inherent values of education, particularly in Arizona
* Reporter informs and educates readership on the roles of education in society
* Reporter discloses practices or procedures in need of correction or improvement so as to encourage and promote local, state and national efforts to improve education

**Business, Foundation or Civic/Community Organization for Contributions to Public Education**

Criteria:

* Demonstrates support through resources, contributions and/or assistance
* Provides community awareness and/or programs

**Multicultural Relations**

Criteria:

* Programs must address the communications needs of our multicultural society through the use of targeted, culturally specific communications strategies.
* These may be bilingual communication programs, programs to ensure culturally diverse representation or intercultural awareness/appreciation programs.

**Association for Middle Level Education**[www.amle.org/AboutAMLE/AMLEAwards](http://www.amle.org/AboutAMLE/AMLEAwards)

**John H. Lounsbury Award**

***Nomination deadline: June 1***

Criteria:  
Viable candidates for this award:

* have a minimum of fifteen (15) years of active, demonstrated, and distinguished service.
* are recognized nationally as an influential leader and advocate for young adolescents.
* have experiences and activities that reflect scholarship of the highest level in professional writing, research, and dedicated service to middle level education.

**AMLE Distinguished Educator Award**

***Nomination deadline: March 15***

Criteria:

* Candidate must have 10 or more years of direct instruction, influence, or involvement with middle grades students.
* Candidate must be employed on a full-time basis in a school that provides middle grades or middle level education.
* Candidate must be a current member of the Association for Middle Level Education.
* Current AMLE staff, Board of Trustees, and selection committee members are not eligible for this award. Past Lounsbury Award and former Association Distinguished Award winners also are not eligible.

**Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)**[**http://cosn.org**](http://cosn.org)

**Nomination deadline (all categories): mid-November**

**Withrow CTO Award**

CoSN’s Withrow CTO Award recognizes an exceptional district CTO who serves as a true technology champion and whose leadership has been transformative for his school system. The award honors Frank Withrow, a pioneer and champion of K-12 education technology. Thanks to SchoolDude for sponsoring the Withrow Award!   
Eligibility   
Chief Technology Officers (or equivalent) from all types of schools—public, charter, private, parochial, or independent—are eligible for the Withrow CTO Award. Nominees do not have to be CoSN members. CoSN board members and their institutions are ineligible for CoSN awards.

**CoSN’s Team Award**recognizes an exceptional district team for its transformative impact on education technology and its work to improve student learning, opportunities, and access. This award dovetails closely with CoSN’s unique focus on the district leadership team as the key to ed tech transformation. Thanks to SchoolDude for sponsoring this award!  
Eligibility  
All school district and educational service agency (serving multiple districts) teams are eligible for CoSN’s Team Award. Ideal teams include key district leaders such as superintendents, CTOs, and chief curriculum leaders. Applicants are also allowed to include local and state partners. CoSN board members and their institutions are ineligible for CoSN awards. The nominee does not have to be a CoSN member.

**National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

[**http://www.naehcy.org/conference/2015-naehcy-awards**](http://www.naehcy.org/conference/2015-naehcy-awards)

***Nomination deadline (all categories): Sept. 30***

**Outstanding Program or Project**

Criteria:

Nominations for this category will be reviewed using the following criteria: Individual(s) or group shows a great understanding of the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness as demonstrated in efforts to:

* Conduct service projects to assist homeless children, youth and families. (Program or project may be schoolwide, classroom related, or initiated by an individual student.)
* Provide a welcoming and supportive environment for children and youth experiencing homelessness in their school.
* Increase school and community awareness of homelessness.
* Project(s) should be of educational benefit to the student or class.

**Outstanding Advocate**

Criteria:

Individual possesses a great understanding of the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness demonstrated in efforts to:

* Meet the needs, especially the academic needs, of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
* Support and encourage children and youth experiencing homelessness and their families.
* Increase awareness among colleagues and community members of homelessness.
* Support and encourage children and youth experiencing homelessness.
* Increase awareness and sensitivity of other children to the issues of homelessness.
* Remove barriers to the academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
* Conduct awareness activities for school and district staff and community members of the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
* Involve and develop rapport with parents.
* Implement cross-program and community collaboration.
* Peers, colleagues, and others consistently recognize this individual as being dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

**Distinguished Service and Leadership**

Criteria:

Individual or group demonstrates extraordinary service and/or leadership to children, youths and families experiencing homelessness in one or more of the following areas:

* Advocacy
* Partnerships
* Education
* Direct Service
* Focus of work should be clearly linked to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
* he nominees in this category may be an individual or group that already operates within the NAEHCY organization; or may be an individual or group not currently associated with NAEHCY.
* If a nominee is not currently operating in coordination with NAEHCY, they should be working toward the same goal areas as NAEHCY. (Especially goals such as advocacy, partnerships, and/or education.)

**Best Targeted Campaign**

**Criteria:**

* Product should be clear in purpose.
* Product should include critical messages relating to the needs of homeless children, youth and families, especially educational/academic needs.
* Product should portray the resilience and achievements of homeless children, youth and families as well as their needs.
* Product must include factual, current information with data sources.
* Product should be visually attractive.
* Product should be presented in a creative manner.
* Product should be technically well done.
* Product should be generally applicable beyond a particular state or district.
* Product should align with McKinney-Vento law and best practices

**The Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award**

Criteria:

* Individual should have dedicated a substantial portion of their time and energy, both personally and professionally, working to improve the lives of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
* Individual should have demonstrated extraordinary service in the following areas—advocacy, partnerships, education, and direct service.
* Individual should have achieved positive, ongoing, sustainable, and tangible outcomes as a result of their efforts.
* Individual should exemplify the qualities and dedication shown by the person for whom this award was named.
* Individual’s accomplishments should encompass the majority of their career.
* Individual’s focus should be linked strongly to the educational achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness

**National Life Group**<https://lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com/>

***Nomination period: November - December***

LifeChanger of the Year is an annual program that recognizes and rewards K-12 education professionals. Nominees must be full-time educators, teachers, administrators or any member of a school’s staff who makes a positive difference in the lives of students.

Criteria:

* positive influence on their students,
* exemplifies excellence,
* shows leadership in their community and changes lives.
* Online form available at <https://lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com/nominate/>

**National Science Foundation**<https://www.paemst.org>

**Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching *Nominations deadline: April 1, 2016***

Criteria:  
criteria for applicants. They must:

* Teach mathematics or science (including computer science) as part of their contracted teaching responsibilities at the K-6th grade level in a public (including charter), or private school.
* Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
* Be a full-time employee of the school or school district as determined by state and district policies, with responsibilities for teaching students no less than 50% of the school's allotted instructional time.
* Have at least five years of full-time employment as a K-12 teacher during which mathematics or science (including computer science) has been a part of the applicant's teaching duties prior to the 2015-2016 academic school year.
* Teach in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity schools, or the U.S. territories as a group (American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands).
* Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
* Not have received the PAEMST award at the national level in any prior competition or category.

**The Rodel Charitable Foundation**<http://rodelaz.org/>

**RODEL Exemplary Principal**<http://rodelaz.org/initiatives/principal-initiative/>

***Nomination deadline: Superintendents receive nomination materials in August. Deadline sometime in September.***

Criteria:  
Superintendents may nominate candidates who:

* have served a minimum of three years as a principal and are currently at a school where 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for participation in the free or reduced-price school lunch program (FRL% of feeder schools may be considered to determine program qualification);
* have a documented history of high student achievement, as measured by required summative assessment data, for a minimum of three years;
* ensure a safe campus environment that supports a respectful culture focused on teaching and learning;
* utilize data to guide instruction and decisions regarding staff development;
* actively engage parents and the community in the education of their child;
* indicate a commitment to remain an active administrator for a minimum of two additional years;
* demonstrate the ability to successfully develop and inspire others; and
* have the skill-set and a strong desire to mentor and train aspiring principals.

**RODEL Aspiring Principal**<http://rodelaz.org/initiatives/principal-initiative/rodel-aspiring-principals/>

***Nomination deadline: Information will be available in January 2016 with a March submission deadline.***

Criteria:

* Aspiring school leaders (current teachers, coaches, assistant principals or other school administrators) are encouraged to apply to become Rodel Aspiring Principals.
* Interested candidates submit an application packet (available in January), including data that represents their impact on student learning and achievement at their school and three letters of recommendation, including one from district superintendency or a representative of the charter holder.

**Rodel Exemplary Teacher**<http://rodelaz.org/initiatives/teacher-initiative/>

***Nomination deadline:*** Process begins in July. Researchers at Rodel review the last three years of school- and grade-level student achievement data for teachers in high-need schools who have a minimum of 70 percent of their students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch. Researchers identify teachers whose levels of student achievement are consistently well above norms. This screening typically results in several hundred potential candidates. The Rodel Selection Committee contacts principals of potential candidates and encourages them to nominate their very best teachers.

Criteria:  
Rodel is looking for teachers who demonstrate these primary characteristics:

* The teacher’s students are achieving above the state average, as shown by two years of classroom level student achievement data.
* The teacher demonstrates classroom instruction skills and techniques that you, as principal, would like to duplicate for all staff members.
* The teacher is able to communicate their techniques that yield strong student learning.
* The teacher is willing to mentor student teachers in their classroom over the next three years.

**RODEL Promising Student Teacher**<http://rodelaz.org/initiatives/teacher-initiative/>

***Nomination deadline: September 30, 2015***

Criteria:  
In partnership with the major universities and colleges in Arizona, education students are encouraged to apply to become Rodel Promising Student Teachers.

Interested candidates submit an application packet to their college of education, including references from professors and recommendations from school advisors.

**School Social Work Association of America**

[**http://www.sswaa.org**](http://www.sswaa.org)

**Randy A. Fisher Lifetime Career Achievement Award**

***Nomination deadline: November 15***

Criteria:  
Candidates should have a variety of experiences as a school social work practitioner, educator at the university/college level, author, presenter, and/or leadership position (volunteer or employment) that spans a significant number of years. Additionally, candidates should be long term members in state (when appropriate) and national school social work and social work organizations.

**National School Social Worker of the Year**

***Nomination deadline: November 15***

Criteria:  
The letter of recommendation must address the following award eligibility criteria:

* Is currently practicing school social work as of the date of nomination.
* Has Master’s degree in Social Work from CSWE accredited university.
* Has State School Social Work credential, if applicable, and/or state social work license;
* Is a member of the SSWAA (for two years prior to being nominated).
* Has two or more years’ experience as a school social worker.
* Has demonstrated commitment to the profession that extends beyond the expected duties of the specific school social work position (e.g. development of programs, innovations, presentations, etc.).
* Has outstanding achievements in field of school social work on behalf of students, school personnel, and/or the community.

**School Social Work Association of Arizona**

<http://www.sswaaz.org/sswaaz/SSWAAZ/Home.html>

***Nomination deadline (all categories):*** mid to late January

**School Social Worker of the Year**

Criteria:

A typical awardee in this category is a social worker who has provided exemplary service to students and their families, has modeled teamwork and innovation in the school setting and has provided leadership in schools or SSWAAZ.

**Lifetime Achievement in School Social Work**

Criteria:

A typical awardee in this category is a social worker who has contributed to the field over a period of time by providing exemplary service to children and families, leadership in the SSWAAZ, mentorship to students or new colleagues coming into the field, and has presented workshops or published articles in the field.

**Public Educator of the Year**

Criteria:

A typical awardee in this category is a principal or other administrator, teacher or aide, or a support professional such as a school psychologist, speech therapist, etc. who has made an exemplary contribution to the academic and social success of children by focusing on prevention and or intervention with children to enhance their academic, emotional, and social functioning. This awardee is a person who has promoted teamwork with school social workers and other educators.

**SRP Champions of Energy Efficiency Awards**

<http://www.srpnet.com/energy/powerwise/business/awards.aspx>

***Nomination deadline:*** early August

Criteria:

(2104 inaugural year) Nominations are based on gross annual energy savings through participation in SRP's commercial rebate programs last year. In order to be considered for the award, nominees have to submit a written application form, which is reviewed by an independent and impartial selection committee of Valley professionals.

Winners are chosen based on their outstanding efforts to implement new technologies, institute behavioral change and support ongoing initiatives for energy efficiency within their organizations.

**US Department of Education**

**Blue Ribbon School**

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/applicant.html>

***Nomination deadline:*** Department of Ed sends letters to states – September; State makes determination of schools to invite to apply; if invited, public school deadline for nomination – January; public school deadline for application – March.

Criteria:

Performance Award Criteria for Public Schools: Public schools nominated for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award must meet one of two eligibility criteria:

**Exemplary High Performing Schools**: "High performing" is defined by the CSSO of each state, but at a minimum means:

1. The school must be in the top 15 percent of all schools in the state when schools are ranked on

the performance of all students who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics, or

a composite index that includes these assessment results and may also include assessment results in other subject areas and/or other student performance measures, such as attendance or graduation rates.

* For each of the school's subgroups, the school must be in the top 40 percent of all schools in the state when schools are ranked on the performance of all students in the subgroup who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics, or a composite index that includes these assessment results and may also include assessment results in other subject areas and/or other student performance measures, such as attendance or graduation rates for high schools.
* For high schools, the school must be in the top 15 percent of all high schools in the state when high schools are ranked on the most recently available graduation rate.

**Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools**: "Achievement gap closing" is defined by the CSSO of each state, but at a minimum means:

1. For each of the school's subgroups, the school must be in the top 15 percent of all schools in the state when schools are ranked on the school's progress in closing the gap between the performance of the school's subgroup and the state's all-students group over the past five years, comparing the most recent year to the earliest of the five years, on

* the state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics, or
* a composite index that includes these assessment results and may also include assessment results in other subject areas and/or other student performance measures, such as attendance or graduation rates.

1. For each of the school's subgroups, the school must be in the top 40 percent of all schools in the state when schools are ranked on the performance of all students in the subgroup who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics, or a composite index that includes these assessment results and may also include assessment results in other subject areas and/or other student performance measures, such as attendance or graduation rates.
2. For high schools, the school must be in the top 40 percent of all high schools in the state when high schools are ranked on the most recently available graduation rate for each subgroup.
3. The change in the performance of all students in the school over the past five years, comparing the most recent year to the earliest of the five years, must not be less than the change in the performance of all students in the state on

* the state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics, or
* a composite index that includes these assessment results and may also include assessment results in other subject areas or other student performance measures, such as attendance or graduation

In addition to meeting the above performance criteria, a nominated school must have at least 100 students enrolled and have assessment data for at least 10 students in each tested grade for both reading (or English language arts) and mathematics. States with a large percentage of schools with fewer than 100 students enrolled may include up to a similar percentage of these schools in their nominations. However, each school must have assessment data for at least 10 students in each tested grade for both reading (or English language arts) and mathematics.

One-third of the public schools nominated by each state must have enrollments that include at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, all nominated public schools must meet their state's accountability requirements for the all students group and all subgroups, including having participation rates of at least 95 percent and meeting performance targets in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics and other academic indicators (i.e., attendance rate and graduation rate), using the most recent accountability results available for the year prior to nomination (2014-2015). Finally, all nominated public schools must also meet their state's accountability requirements based on the most recent accountability results available for the year in which they are nominated (2015-2016).

**Green Ribbon School**

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>

***Nomination deadline:*** Schools, districts, colleges, and universities do not apply for the recognition award to ED, but to their state education authorities. Candidates must contact their state education authorities (or equivalent DoDEA or BIE jurisdictions) for information on selection in each state.

Criteria:

The aim of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is to inspire schools, districts and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to strive for 21st century excellence, by highlighting promising practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs that:

1. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
2. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
3. Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

**ED-Green Ribbon Schools and District Sustainability Awardees.** Each authority is permitted as many as five Pre-K-12 school or district nominations. If a state or comparable authority wishes to nominate more than two schools or districts, at least one must serve at least 40 percent of students from a disadvantaged background.[[1]](#footnote-1) For a private school to be nominated, at least one public school or district must be nominated. No more than one of the five nominees in this Pre-K-12 category may be a private school. A school or district may be selected as an honoree only once. Authorities are encouraged to consider a school or district’s academic achievement, success in closing achievement gaps, and diversity when selecting school nominees. Free standing early learning institutions are eligible in this category.

1. A student from a “disadvantaged background” is defined for this program by the CSSO of each state. The definition *must* include students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals and *may* include students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient, migrant, or receiving services under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Nominating Authorities must indicate the definition used and the percent disadvantaged for each school nominated. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)