



NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award Application

At every age and every stage, we are entrusted with future leaders who will change the world. The NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher award recognizes beginning educators, fostering their growth, and celebrating their professional engagement. Early career NAAE members are the foundation of our organization, and this award looks to celebrate their accomplishments and support them throughout their careers.

Who can apply?

All active and active life NAAE members, except current members of the NAAE board of directors, are eligible to apply. Each applicant must have been a NAAE member the three (3) previous years or continuously since the applicant began teaching. At the national level, NAAE members must be in their third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh year of teaching at the time they apply to NAAE. (When the national awards are presented at the subsequent NAAE convention, the award recipients will be in their fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth year of teaching.) Individuals may receive the regional award only once; previous regional winners are not eligible to apply.

Awards and Recognition

Each state winner will receive a certificate at the annual meeting of the state agricultural education association. NAAE will recognize six national winners, one from each region. All state winners will compete within their respective NAAE region for the regional award. Each regional winner will receive: (1) round trip, coach airfare to the NAAE convention from the commercial airport nearest the winner's home or round trip mileage reimbursed at the current NAAE mileage rate, not to exceed the dollar amount of one round trip airfare; (2) lodging for four nights at the convention; (3) an engraved plaque; and (4) complimentary registration for the winner. Spouses/guests/co-teachers are welcome to attend the convention with the award winner; however, travel costs and registration fees for spouses/guests/co-teachers will not be covered by NAAE.

The deadline for submitting state winning applications to the national NAAE office is May 15, 2026.

**All applications must be submitted through the NAAE Online Application system.
No printed or emailed applications will be accepted.**

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Award Application Instructions:

Applicants must complete the online submission of this award by May 15th through their MyNAAE account. All required components must be included, and membership requirements and eligibility must be met to be eligible to apply.

Required Components of the Application:

1. **Applicant Information** – the first portion of the application must be the completed online through the MyNAAE portal on the NAAE website. Applicants must log-in and provide updated applicant information.

All items listed below should be saved as electronic files and uploaded to the online application form through MyNAAE. Printed copies of the items below will not be accepted. Supported file types include .pdf, .doc, .txt, .jpg, .png, .gif, .tif, or .bmp.

2. **Narrative** – the narrative is limited to eight 8 1/2" x 11" pages. The narrative must be typewritten and uploaded to the online application form. Use a font no smaller than 12 points. Multiple text formats are acceptable, including paragraphs, lists, and tables. The narrative must follow the outline specified as follows:
 - a. **Overview** – brief description of your agricultural education program and the community in which your program exists. (10%)
 - b. **Teaching Philosophy** – a brief reflective statement (not to exceed one page) of your personal teaching philosophy. (10%)
 - c. **Instruction** – examples of your effective classroom and laboratory instruction including curricula you have developed. (15%)
 - d. **Experiential Learning** – examples of your accomplishments in getting students involved in work-based learning such as supervised agricultural experience programs, cooperative education, and internships. (15%)
 - e. **Leadership Development** – examples of your accomplishments in developing leadership skills of your students. Students' participation and successes in student organization activities, such as FFA, PAS, and NYFEA but not limited to these organizations may also be included. (15%)
 - f. **Partnerships** – examples of your relationships with partners such as volunteers, school and community leaders, industry leaders, and others who have the capacity to support your agricultural education program. (10%)
 - g. **Marketing** – examples of how you market (or promote) your local program to groups such as prospective students, parents, school administrators, and community leaders. (10%)
 - h. **Professional Growth** – examples of how you stay professionally prepared and up to date in teaching techniques and technical content, including information regarding your participation in professional organizations such as NAAE and programs sponsored by NAAE. (15%)
3. **Letter of Reference** – one letter of reference should be uploaded to the online application form. The letter of reference should be from the applicant's direct supervisor (principal, Career Tech Director, etc.). The letter of reference is not considered in the page limitations.
4. **Supporting Materials** – the supporting materials are limited to eight 8 1/2" x 11" pages and saved in a format that can be uploaded to the online application. Supporting materials (such as photographs with captions, news articles, and other items) must be formatted to 8 1/2" x 11". Evaluation of supporting materials will be included with the evaluation of the components of the narrative. (2.a.-2.h. above)

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- 5. Application Signature Sheet** – the application signature page must be signed by the requested individuals and uploaded to the online application form. The application signature page can be found on page 4 of this document.
- 6. Professional Photo or Headshot** – A high resolution photo in .gif, .jpeg, .png, .bmp, .jpg, or .tif form must be uploaded as part of the online submission of your application.

Requested Components of Application:

- 1. Photos Showing Instruction, Experiential learning, Student Organizations, Partnerships, and Marketing** – High resolution photos in .jpeg, .png, .bmp, .jpg, or .tif form can be uploaded as part of the online submission of your application.

State-level Competition

When and Where to Submit: Entries must be submitted to the state association by the deadline established by the state association.

Evaluation Procedures: Each respective state association will determine the selection process for state winners.

National-level Competition

What to Submit: All required components of the application must be submitted online by May 15. No printed or emailed applications will be accepted.

When and Where to Submit: The online application and instructions can be found at www.naae.org. State presidents will authenticate state winners using the NAAE State Winners' Validation Form provided by NAAE. All state winners must be validated by May 15.

Evaluation Procedures: The evaluation of applications will be completed virtually. Applications will be judged by NAAE regions on a rotational calendar. A committee appointed by NAAE will judge and select regional winners.

NOTE: Regional winners must agree to attend and participate in the **entire** NAAE convention.

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NAAE Award Application Signature Page

Please read below and provide the appropriate signatures. You must submit this electronically to the NAAE Office as part of your application.

***Create an electronic version by scanning the document after securing appropriate signatures. PDF format is preferred.*

Photograph License & Publicity Release

By submitting and signing this application, the applicant hereby agrees to the following terms and conditions regarding any photographs submitted to NAAE as supporting materials for such application. License – By submitting any photographs to NAAE with this application, applicant hereby grants to NAAE a fully paid, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty free, world-wide non-exclusive license to display, dis-tribute, sublicense, reproduce, modify, adapt, and publish such photographs on NAAE’s website and in any other materials used to promote NAAE.

Consent & Authorization – Applicant hereby irrevocably consents and authorizes NAAE, and its successors and assigns, to use any photographs submitted with this application for the purpose of promoting NAAE. Applicant further hereby releases NAAE, and its officers, directors, agents, members, employees, successors, and assigns, from all claims for damages for libel, infringement of the right of publicity, invasion of privacy, portrayal in a false light, or any other claim based on the use of any photographs submitted with this application.

Representations & Warranties – Applicant hereby represents and warrants that he/she has the power and authority to grant the rights licensed to NAAE in this application and that the use, copying, distributing, displaying, reproducing, modifying, adapting, and sublicensing of any photographs submitted with this application does not result in the infringement of any copyright, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property right of another. Applicant further represents and warrants that he/she has obtained the consent and authorization for the use of any photographs submitted with this application from all persons shown in such photographs or from the guardian of any persons under the age of eighteen (18) shown in such photographs.

Indemnification – Applicant hereby indemnifies and holds harmless NAAE, and its officers, directors, agents, members, employees, successors and assigns from any loss, liability, claim or demand, including reasonable attorney’s fees, made by any third party due to or in any way relating to the use of any photographs submitted with this application or any breach of any of the representations and warranties contained in this application.

If named as the regional winner, I will attend the NAAE Convention. Also, by signing this I agree to the Photograph License & Publicity Release above.

Signed:

Applicant’s Signature

Date

If this teacher is selected as the regional winner, he/she will be permitted to attend the NAAE convention.

School (including signature and title)

Date