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NAAE Teacher Mentor Award Application

Sponsored by iCEV

Bringing out the best in our students, requires us to bring out the best in ourselves. But we never have to do that alone. The NAAE Teacher Mentor awards embodies the profound impact of “Leading and Learning Together”. The motivation to an agriculture teachers career choices can be traced back to the influence of an exceptional mentor. Recognizing a pivotal role of a mentor, numerous state associations have established formal frameworks fostering positive relationships between experienced and beginning teachers as well as in-service teachers. This award program honors those NAAE members who have committed their time and expertise to supporting and celebrating other teachers in the profession. Even though much focus is given to beginning teacher mentoring, mentoring becomes a part of lifelong learning, and this award also highlights those teachers that dedicate their career to advancing our profession through mentoring on all levels including experienced teachers.

Who can apply?

All active NAAE members, except current members of the NAAE board of directors, are eligible to enter. Each applicant must have been a NAAE member the three (3) previous years or continuously since the teacher began 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 sponsored 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) a \$400 travel stipend for the specific purpose of attending the 2026 NAAE Convention in New Orleans, LA; (2) complimentary registration for the 2026 NAAE Convention; and (3) an engraved plaque. ** The travel stipend will not be awarded to individuals who already have their travel expenses paid for 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. 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. *If a multiple teacher program, please include examples from all teachers within the program throughout the application.* The narrative must follow the outline specified as follows:
 - a. **Mentoring Philosophy** – a brief reflective statement (not to exceed one page) of your mentoring philosophy. (10%)
 - b. **Overview of Mentoring Situations** – a description of the specific situation(s) in which the mentoring activities took place (face-to-face meetings, observations, telephone calls, etc.). (20%)
 - c. **Examples of Effective Mentoring** – examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) in one or more of the following categories: (50%)
 1. **Instruction** – examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) with effective classroom and laboratory instruction.
 2. **Experiential Learning** – examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) with developing effective work-based learning experiences for students such as supervised agricultural experience programs, cooperative education, and internships.
 3. **Student Organizations** – examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) with enhancing student leadership development through student organization activities, including FFA, PAS, and NYFEA. For adult instruction situations, provide examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) in enhancing the leadership development of program participants.
 4. **Partnerships** – examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) in enhancing relationships with partners such as volunteers, school and community leaders, industry leaders, and others who have the capacity to support the agricultural education program.
 5. **Marketing** – examples of how the mentor assisted the mentee(s) in marketing (or promoting) the local program to groups such as prospective students, parents, school administrators, and community leaders.

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- d. **Professional Growth** – examples of how the mentor stays professionally prepared and up to date in teaching techniques and technical content including information regarding participation in professional organizations such as NAAE and NAAE sponsored programs such as Communities of Practice. Additional information of how the mentor assists and encourages the mentee(s) may also be included. (20%)
3. **Letters of References** – two letters of reference should be uploaded to the online application form. Sources of the letters should be as follows: one letter from the applicant’s direct supervisor (principal, Career Tech director, etc.) and one letter from a mentee of the applicant. Letters of Reference should reference the mentoring characteristics of the applicant. (The letters of reference are not considered in the page limitations.)
4. **Supporting Materials** – The supporting materials are limited to five 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) and should reflect mentoring situations.
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.

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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