



National Dance Education Organization

2021 National Awards Guidelines

The National Dance Education Organization recognizes the achievements of outstanding members through the annual awards program. The major awards for the organization are listed below. ***All national award recipients will be given a complimentary registration to attend the 2021 NDEO Virtual National Conference.***

- **Lifetime Achievement:** The most prestigious award conferred, the Lifetime Achievement Award is given for exemplary leadership, scholarship and/or artistry, and philanthropy or service to dance education.
- **Outstanding Leadership:** This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in creating ideas for programs, curriculums, and/or projects that have had a significant impact on the field of dance education and who has demonstrated leadership at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international level. Additionally, the recipient of this award should inspire and cultivate vision and leadership in others.
- **Outstanding Dance Educator (Higher Education):** This award acknowledges a stellar dance educator from the membership who teaches in a college / university setting. It is granted on a yearly rotating basis to a dance educator—Postsecondary Higher Ed (2021), K-12 Education (2022), and Private Sector / Dance Studio (2023). Additionally, the recipient of this award should inspire and motivate their students and have a significant impact in their school community.
- **Outstanding Dance Education Researcher:** This award recognizes an individual who has made a unique contribution to the field of dance education through creative and/or scholarly research. The recipient of this award should cultivate the importance of scholarly and creative research throughout the field of dance education.

Eligibility Requirements for All Awards

- All nominees must be members of NDEO in good standing, with consistent membership of five years or more as a Professional or Institutional Member (as the main contact on the account) prior to being nominated.
- The nominator must receive the nominee's permission before submitting materials.
- The nominator does not need to be a member of NDEO.
- A person may nominate themselves (self-nominate), except for Lifetime Achievement.

Application Guidelines for All Awards

- The nominee's name should be submitted as he/she wishes it to appear on all NDEO printed materials, including the actual award.
- To apply for the award, the nominator, or nominee (if self-nominating), must complete the online awards application form. The link to the form is found on the NDEO website at www.ndeo.org/nationalawards
- The application must be submitted by the published deadline.
- Nominators (individual or organization) may nominate only one (1) candidate in each category.
- Award recipients and nominators should expect to attend the Virtual National Awards Recognition Ceremony and Panel discussion in September 2021. If the honoree cannot attend the ceremony, he or she will appoint a person to accept the award on his or her behalf and will prepare and forward a brief 150 word statement of acceptance to the Director of Awards.
- Awards will be given only when warranted at the sole discretion of the Awards Committee.
- Special consideration may be given to candidates who have contributed time and energy on behalf of NDEO.
- The committee, at its discretion, may hold interviews with appropriate persons from the candidate's work environment.
- Nominations will not be held over for submission the following year.
- Only the required materials will be reviewed. Additional materials will not be forwarded to the evaluation committee.

Required Materials for All Awards:

Quick Nomination Form (Phase 1): The following will be reviewed initially, and the nominee will move on to Phase 2 if membership criteria is met.

- Nominator and nominee contact information. Lifetime Achievement nominees cannot self-nominate.
- 200 word biography (optional, but highly recommended) - can be a bio published on a website or one provided by the nominee.

- A short explanation, 200 words or less, on why this person deserves to be recognized.

Phase 2: If the membership criteria is met, the following will need to be submitted. The nominator will receive an email with a link to the Phase 2 form and be required to provide the following materials.

- One Letter of Nomination (written by the nominator) – *this is NOT required if self-nominating for Outstanding Dance Educator, Outstanding Leadership, or Outstanding Dance Education Researcher.* Lifetime Achievement nominees cannot self-nominate.
- A CV or Resume

Additional Required Materials for Outstanding Dance Educator:

Two letters of support (Recommendation Letters) that discuss the candidate's specific approach to teaching. (**Please see evaluation criteria below**).

- One must be from an NDEO member or professional outside the organization who can speak to the impact of the nominee's work at the school level.
- It is recommended that the second letter be from a current/former student, however it also can be from a professional colleague.

The letters should provide a detailed picture of how the nominee creates student-centered learning experiences that contribute to the development of the field. Letters should address the following points:

- The applicant's student-centered approach to teaching
- The extent of experiential, holistic, and authentic approaches/experiences in the studio / classroom
- The opportunities the applicant provides for student expression, reflective practice, and collaborative practices
- The level of challenge in the studio / classroom
- Any innovative pedagogical practices

The **nominee's written philosophical statement of dance education** in relation to standards-based arts education, and/or their understanding of their role as a teacher, colleague and mentor. This statement should include the nominee's expectations for their future contributions to dance and dance education. This will be uploaded as a Word document file.

Additional Required Materials for Outstanding Leadership:

Two letters of support (Recommendation Letters)

- One must be from a NDEO member in good standing
- The second letter can be from an NDEO member or professional outside the organization who can speak to the impact of the nominee's work at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international level.

Additional Required Materials for Outstanding Dance Education Researcher:

Two letters of support (Recommendation Letters)

- One must be from a NDEO member in good standing
- The second letter can be from an NDEO member or professional outside the organization who can speak to the impact of the nominee's work on a national or international level.

A 400-word Research Philosophy Statement (written by the nominee)

Two research work samples:

- If the nominee's work is primarily scholarly, please submit/upload two scholarly samples less than 20 pages each.
- If the nominee's work is primarily creative, please submit URL web links of two creative samples less than 20 minutes each.
- If the nominee works in both areas, please submit one scholarly and one creative sample.

Evaluation criteria for:

Lifetime Achievement

Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to a member of the National Dance Education Organization for exemplary leadership, research, scholarship and/or artistry, and philanthropy or service to dance education. The honoree will have contributed to the field of dance education at the national and/or international levels for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious award the organization confers.

- Impact and contributions of lifetime achievements to the field of dance education.
- Advocacy for the field of dance and dance in education at the national and/or international level.

- Innovativeness of contributions to the arts and dance education.
- Recognition by peers as an influential figure in the dance or dance education communities.

Outstanding Leadership

One member will be chosen who has innovative practices and contributed professional service at the local, state, regional, national and/or international level for a period of at least seven years.

- Innovation of ideas that promote growth in the field of dance education.
- Evidence of implementing programs and/or services to the field that merit national attention and acclaim.
- Evidence of sustained leadership at the national level.
- Evidence of commitment to developing future leaders.
- Active involvement in endeavors that promote dance education on a major scale.
- Impact and sustainability of proposed ideas/programs implemented.

Outstanding Dance Educator

The member nominated for this award should be employed in a dance education position and be certified or have equivalent credentials appropriate to the teaching environment. The recipient of this award will have an established record of teaching dance as an artistic discipline and ongoing professional development. Additionally, the recipient will inspire and motivate their students and have an impact on their local school community.

- Demonstrated ability to articulate and communicate their philosophy of dance education.
- Documented promotion of standards-based dance education or documented compliance with the standards /criteria that reflect the educator's environment.
- Demonstrated ability to encourage students to examine the world through an artistic lens.
- Demonstrated strength in facilitating creating, performing, and responding to dance as art.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate important life skills embodied in dance (arts) education.
- Evidence of developing, supporting, implementing, and/or promoting dance and dance education in their community.
- Demonstrated evidence that teaching supports abundant student-centered classroom experiences, experiential work and holistic, authentic approaches to teaching dance.
- Evidence of student opportunity for expression, reflective practice, and engagement in collaboration within a democratic environment that is developmentally appropriate and challenging.

Outstanding Dance Education Researcher

This award is granted to a NDEO member who has contributed to the field of dance education through creative and/or scholarly research for at least seven years.

- Innovation of ideas that promote the advancement of scholarship and/or creative activity within dance education.
- Evidence of national attention and acclaim.
- Evidence of scholarship and/or creative activity at the national level.
- Evidence of commitment to developing future scholars and/or artists.
- Active involvement in endeavors that promote scholarship and/or creative activity on a major scale.
- Impact and sustainability of scholarship and/or creative activity.

Awards Committees Composition:

- *Lifetime Achievement*: Director of Awards, two Past Presidents, and an Advisory Director or Policy Board Member
- *Outstanding Leadership* and *Outstanding Dance Educator*: Awards Committee, led by Director for Awards (Advisory Board position)
- *Outstanding Dance Education Researcher*: Director of Awards, the Advisory Director of Research, the Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Dance Education*, and an Advisory Director or Policy Board Member

Note: Given the expertise and composition of the selection committees, in the possibility that a committee member may be nominated for an award that their committee selects, the committee member will recuse themselves from that year's selection process. The Director of Awards may appoint a replacement member if needed. The incumbent Director of Awards is not eligible for nomination.