

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM

E. STANLEY A. BRZEZINSKY MEMORIAL RURAL EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARD

In order to promote high quality research in the field of rural education, the NREA has instituted the Stanley A. Brzezinsky Memorial Rural Education Research Award (Research Award). The award will be given for a body of research completed over several years. Research areas could include, but are not be limited to: issues of rural school efficiency and effectiveness; financing rural schools in a depressed rural economy; student/rural community expectations; understanding the diversity of rural education; rural schools and community development; preparing/retaining quality teachers and administrators; alternative instructional and organizational patterns for rural schools, including the use of technology; or developing public policy for rural education. The researcher(s) whose body of work is judged the most meritorious will receive the award at the annual convention of the NREA.

A researcher or researchers may receive the Stanley A. Brzezinski Memorial Rural Education Research Award no more than one time in a five-year period.

The purpose of the Research Award is to recognize an individual, or individuals working together in accumulating a body of research work, that make(s) an outstanding contribution toward the advancement of knowledge, theory, and practice in rural education.

The body of research contributions may include a variety of forms including applied or basic research, but must have been conducted using one or more of the traditional research methodologies (e.g., experimental, descriptive, historical, developmental) Mixed methods research designs are appropriate. Contributions based upon research methods carried out as part of an interdisciplinary investigation are also appropriate. Contributions and their use of research methods must focus on advancing knowledge, theory, and practice in rural education.

Application Process:

The call will be open for nomination by NREA members of any individual(s) worthy of the award as specified herein. Self-nomination is permitted. Nomination letters should be no more than two pages (single-spaced) and must describe how the nominee's body of work has contributed to rural education through important research publications, research findings, and/or educational innovations (e.g., policies, programs, technologies).

Selection Criteria:

The nominee application shall be judged on:

- 1) Significance of body of work to field of Rural Education,
- 2) Quality of the research contributions in the body of work, and
- 3) Responsiveness to the NREA Research priorities or other documented needs of rural schools and communities

Eligibility of persons to receive the Research Award will be determined on the basis that the researcher is willing to attend and receive the award at the annual convention.

Members of the NREA Research / Higher Education Team are eligible for the award, but consequently waive the right to participate in the judging process if nominated for the award. Evaluation of the nominations may be made by a subcommittee appointed by the Research /Higher Education Team Chairperson. The subcommittee shall make a recommendation to the Research/Higher Education Team. The award recipient(s) shall be selected by a majority vote of the Team members present in a meeting called by the Team chairperson to receive the subcommittee nomination.

Proposed Procedures for Announcing Research Award:

1. January – Email to NREA members.
2. January and February – announce call for nominations in NREA e-newsletter, in *The Rural Educator* journal, and on NREA web site.
3. **June 30th15** – deadline for nominations to be emailed to the NREA Research / Higher Education Team Chairperson or NREA Executive Director.
4. **June 30th15 – Julyne 25th**, evaluation of the nominations and selection of the E. STANLEY A. BRZEZINSKY MEMORIAL RURAL EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARD winner.

Reservations:

1. Selection, rejection, and judging are the reserved rights of the NREA Research and Higher Education Team. The Research / Higher Education Team further reserves the option of making appropriate inquiry on any study or information submitted in the application.

2. NREA assumes the privilege of reproducing all or portions of the award winner's application in the association journal or other association publications.

3. NREA reserves the right to acknowledge the researcher's application to the agency or institution with whom the researcher is or researchers are associated.

4. The NREA Research /Higher Education Team is responsible for solicitation of applications and evaluation of supportive materials.

The award will be presented at the Annual NREA Convention and Research Symposium.

The recipient(s) of the Research Award shall receive one complimentary registration to the Annual NREA Convention and Research Symposium to receive the award.

A monetary amount of \$500 shall be made by the Brzezinsky family and provided to the winner of the award during the award recognition at the Annual NREA Convention and Research Symposium.