

## **The College Board Rural Teacher of the Year**

### **APPLICATION FORM and PROCEDURES**

The National Rural Education Association presents the Annual College Board Rural Teacher of the Year Award to a deserving teacher. The College Board Rural Teacher of the Year Award is sponsored and funded by the College Board. The support provided lets the College Board Rural Teacher of the Year receive a \$2,000 honorarium, and the Rural Teacher of the Year's school district receives \$1,000 to purchase instructional materials and school supplies.

Competition for the College Board Rural Teacher of the Year is open to all rural teachers. Candidates for the award who are nominated by a NREA State Affiliate Organization shall automatically be the candidate from their home state. In the absence of a NREA State Affiliate candidate, any teacher from that state may be a candidate and shall be considered a state semi-finalist. The College Board Rural Teacher of the Year Selection Committee will select a state candidate from the semi-finalists. Only state candidates will be considered for the College Board NREA Rural Teacher of the Year Award.

### **Program Timelines**

**All entries must be postmarked or delivered to the NREA Office by June 20<sup>th</sup> of each year.**

The College Board Rural Teacher of the Year Selection Committee will meet and/or confers via video conference, email, etc. to review and evaluate all semi-finalist applications received from State Affiliates and from states not having an NREA state affiliate organization, or from a state(s) with an NREA State Affiliates organization that is not submitting a finalist from that state. The selection committee will determine the state finalist for each state as necessary. From these state finalist, the selection committee will select four national finalists.

Presentation of the COLLEGE BOARD RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR Award will be made at the Annual NREA Convention. The College Board Rural Teacher of the Year will make an acceptance speech and should be prepared to present a one hour breakout session on an appropriate topic related to teaching in the setting.

The award recipient will receive a \$2000 honorarium and a one year NREA membership. The school district will receive \$1,000 to cover the cost of released time and add to the instructional environment of the teacher's classroom. The recipient's travel, lodging, and registration costs of attending the Annual NREA Convention will be paid by the NREA. The COLLEGE BOARD RURALTEACHER OF THE YEAR will serve as an Ambassador for Education throughout the United States of America throughout the following year.

### **APPLICATION/NOMINATION PACKET SECTIONS**

#### **Section 1. Nominator's Letter of Recommendation**

Using specific descriptions and examples, succinctly explain what qualities the nominee possesses and what activities have been undertaken, goals accomplished, projects

completed, etc. on behalf of schools and students that qualify the nominee as deserving national recognition. Maximum of one page.

#### Section 2. Letters of Recommendation

Five letters of recommendation are required and only five will be accepted in addition to the nominator's letter of recommendation. The five letters of recommendation should be written by a person in each of the following categories; Administrator, Teacher, Community Member, Parent, and Student. Each letter of recommendation is limited to a maximum of one page.

#### Section 3. Background

The nominee should describe background, experiences, and activities related to exceptional performance in the education system/building or district. This could include biographical information, educational background, action photos, awards, honors, community recognition, etc. The maximum length is two double-spaced pages.

#### Section 4. Response to Questions

The nominee should address the following questions that are designed to focus on specific parts of the educator's work using specific examples and information. The maximum length is 12 double-spaced pages for the responses to all questions.

### **QUESTIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINEE**

(These key areas will be used to evaluate the application.)

#### **IMPACT ON STUDENTS/STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

1. How has the applicant incorporated the concepts of higher standards in his/her teaching for all students, used creativity and innovation in their classroom, and demonstrated that all students can succeed in learning at the higher level?
2. How has the applicant, consistently over time, demonstrated his/her care for students?  
Examples can be from the classroom when working directly with students as well as activities outside the classroom and other non-classroom interactions with students.

#### **COLLABORATION**

3. How has the applicant demonstrated excellence as a contributing member of the collaborative rural community?
4. How has the applicant demonstrated that he/she is a teacher who collaborates with fellow educators, parents, families, and the community in an effort to improve teaching and learning, and fosters collaboration and teamwork among students?

#### **CONTINUOUS LEARNING**

5. How is the individual's commitment to lifelong learning being demonstrated in the form of participation in professional development programs to enhance content knowledge, assisting other faculty with professional development, and/or enabling community activities that provide learning experiences for working adults, senior citizens, parents, etc.?

### **LEADERSHIP**

6. How has the applicant exemplified leadership skills that will support and expand student achievement, push traditional limits, and establish attainable high goals for students, and the school district?
7. How has the applicant's leadership in the educational community impacted the school district and the community? Examples could be creating links between the school and community and service to the community.

### **SUMMARY**

8. Summarize the ways in which the applicant demonstrated excellence in fulfillment of a teacher's duties, as well as examples of performance that exceeded expectations.

**College Board Rural Teacher of the Year**

<b>Name of Nominee:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Home Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	
<b>Zip:</b>	<b>Email:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>

<b>School Name:</b>		<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>District Name:</b>		<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Subject(s) Taught</b>			
<b>Grade(s) Taught</b>			
<b>Years in present position</b>		<b>Years</b>	
<b>Years of Teaching experience</b>		<b>Years</b>	

<b>School Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>District Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State</b>	<b>Zip:</b>

I hereby give my permission that any or all of the attached materials (other than home address, telephone, and date of birth) may be shared with all persons interested in promoting the College Board Teacher of the Year Award program. I will be released from classroom responsibilities, as my availability allows during the year of my recognition, to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor of being the College Board Rural Teacher of the Year\*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT THE NREA NATIONAL CONVENTION.

**Employer Confirmation of Application  
School Building Administrator**

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>
<b>School Name:</b>		
<b>School Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>
<b>Zip:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>

I acknowledge the nominee, \_\_\_\_\_, is submitting this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the College Board Rural Teacher of the Year, he/she will be released from classroom responsibilities as his/her availability allows during the year of that recognition, to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor of being the award winner. Attendance is required at the NREA convention.

Signature of Building Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**School District Director of Schools/Superintendent**

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>
<b>District Name:</b>		
<b>District Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>
<b>Zip:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>

I acknowledge the nominee, \_\_\_\_\_, is submitting this application with my approval. If the nominee is selected as the College Board Rural Teacher of the Year, he/she will be released from classroom responsibilities as his/her availability allows during the year of that recognition, to fulfill the obligations inherent in the honor of being the award winner. Attendance is required at the NREA convention.

Signature of District Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NREA State Affiliate Organization Hereby Certifies That:**

The above-named nominee for the Annual College Board Rural Teacher of the Year Award is the official State Affiliate supported entry.

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Title:</b>
<b>Affiliate Name:</b>		
<b>Affiliate Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>
<b>Zip:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>

**Signature of State Affiliate Official:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed packet to:**

**NREA  
Dr. Allen Pratt  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
615 McCallie Ave  
Hunter Hall 205  
Chattanooga, TN 37403**

