

# Education Educator Awards

Celebrating Exceptional Teaching and School Leadership

## Klingenstein Teacher Award Silverberg Leadership Award

**Nomination Deadline: June 15, 2021**  
**[Eeducation.org/awards](https://Eeducation.org/awards)**

The Klingenstein Teacher Award and Silverberg Leadership Award were established to celebrate the exceptional teaching and school leadership for which EL Education is known. These awards lift up teachers and leaders who are nominated by their peers, and provide an opportunity for the entire EL Education community to feel inspired by our shared vision for student achievement across three dimensions.

The 2021 Klingenstein Teacher Award and Silverberg Leadership Award will be bestowed during the EL Education Virtual Summit on October 28-29, 2021.

The recipient of each award will receive a \$5,000 cash prize. Recipients will also be invited to participate in opportunities throughout the 2021-2022 school year to amplify educator voices and share their expertise with the EL Education community and beyond.

**The 2021 deadline to nominate a teacher or school leader is Tuesday, June 15.**

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# Award Criteria

## Klingenstein Teacher Award Criteria

The **Klingenstein Teacher Award** is presented annually to a teacher who is judged by their peers to have most successfully transmitted to students the essence of EL Education: building exemplary character, driving outstanding academic achievement, and instilling an ethic of “citizen scholarship.”

Teachers should:

- Instill in students a desire to learn, take responsibility for their own education and achieve good academic results;
- Inspire students’ participation in good citizenship in its broader sense, as well as inside the classroom, in the school and as part of the greater community; and
- Model the value of “We are crew, not passengers,” promoting equity, teamwork, and service in their classrooms and schools.

## Silverberg Leadership Award Criteria

The **Silverberg Leadership Award** is presented annually to a school leader who has successfully impacted student achievement outcomes through a deep implementation of EL Education practices, inspiring teachers, administrative staff, and students to embrace EL Education culture and to lead students to a superior education, enhanced character development, and sense of civic responsibility.

Leaders should:

- Unite staff, students, and the broader community around an inspirational and equitable vision of student success rooted in EL Education’s Dimensions of Student Achievement;
- Engage their school community in continuous improvement to fulfill the vision;
- Cultivate a professional culture among adults that parallels the empowering culture they foster for students;
- Build the leadership capacity of others and empower them to lead improvement across the school;
- Respect teachers and other staff members as creative agents and support them as professionals continually seeking to improve their craft; and
- Ensure high-quality instruction through adequate allocation of resources and supporting structures so that all students excel.

## Eligibility

Teachers whose schools or districts are in active partnership with EL Education are eligible for the **Klingenstein Teacher Award**. Teachers include current, full-time classroom teachers, teacher leaders, building-based coaches, and instructional guides.

School leaders whose schools or districts are in active partnership with EL Education are eligible for the Silverberg Leadership Award. School leaders include principals, assistant principals and other members of the school administration responsible for the entire school community.

## Nomination Guidelines

Candidates are nominated by colleagues in their school community. Self nominations are not permitted. To nominate a teacher or school leader at your school, please email the following materials to [awards@ELeducation.org](mailto:awards@ELeducation.org) by **Tuesday, June 15**:

- 1) **Letter of support** for your candidate. Strong nomination letters describe how your candidate meets each of the [award criteria](#). Letters should be 1-2 pages and signed by at least two teachers.
- 2) **Evidence to further illustrate your nominee's qualifications**. This could include an example of student work; testimonials from students, parents or the district; or a video of classroom practice. Different file formats are welcome; there is no expectation to create something new. Please limit your evidence to 1-3 examples.

For finalists only of the Klingenstein Teacher Award, the EL Education Awards team will contact school leaders to request a letter of support.

Recipients are selected by a committee of distinguished educators, appointed annually by EL Education for each award. EL Education staff are not on the selection committees..

After the award recipients have been selected and announced, all nominees will be sent their nomination letters.

**If you have questions about eligibility or nomination materials, please contact [awards@ELeducation.org](mailto:awards@ELeducation.org).**

## Key Award Dates

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Nominations Open:                        | April 20, 2021      |
| Nomination Deadline:                     | June 15, 2021       |
| Recipients Announced:                    | September 2021      |
| EL Education Virtual Summit Recognition: | October 28-29, 2021 |

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Can a teacher or school leader be nominated more than once?**

Yes. Past nominees and finalists are eligible.

## **Can a school leader nominate a teacher?**

No. Candidates must be nominated by two or more fellow teachers.

## **Can EL Education staff nominate a teacher or school leader?**

No.

## **When does the nomination process close?**

Nominations are received on a rolling basis. The last day to nominate a teacher or school leader is June 15, 2021. You may notify us by email ([awards@ELeducation.org](mailto:awards@ELeducation.org)) at any time of your plans to nominate a teacher or school leader, so that we know to expect your letter of support.

## **How are recipients selected?**

Selection Committees are established for each award annually to review the materials and select the recipients against the award criteria.

## **When are the recipients notified?**

All nominees will be notified by September 2021.

## **When are the awards presented?**

The awards will be presented during the EL Education 2021 Virtual Summit on October 28-29, 2021.

## **What do the awards include?**

The recipient of each award will receive a \$5,000 cash prize. The awards will be bestowed during the EL Education 2021 Virtual Summit this fall. Recipients will have ongoing opportunities to share their expertise with the EL Education community and beyond.

## **Who makes these awards possible?**

The Klingenstein Teacher Award is made possible with the generous support of Lee Klingenstein, Founding Chair of the EL Education Board of Directors(1927 - 2020).

The Silverberg Leadership Award is made possible with the generous support of Irwin Silverberg, EL Education Board of Directors.

## Who are the past recipients?

### [Klingenstein Teacher Award](#)

- 2020: Tawana Jordan, Burns Elementary-Middle School, Detroit, MI
- 2019: Sara Boeck Batista, Leaders High School, a NYC Outward Bound School, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018: Annie Holyfield, Joe Shoemaker School, Denver, CO
- 2017: Lindsay Slabich, The Springfield Renaissance School, Springfield, MA
- 2016: Chris Dolgos, Genesee Community Charter School, Rochester, NY
- 2015: Jon Exall, Odyssey School, Denver, CO
- 2014: Beth Mowry, Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013: Merry Byles-Daly, Grass Valley Charter School, Grass Valley, CA
- 2013: Susan McCray, Casco Bay High School, Portland, ME (Inaugural)

### [Silverberg Leadership Award](#)

- 2020: Dr. Diamond Ford, Hollis Innovation Academy, Atlanta, GA
- 2019: William Haithcock, Harborside Academy, Kenosha, WI
- 2018: Laina Cox, Capital City Public Charter School, Washington, DC
- 2017: Michelle Navarre, Polaris Charter Academy, Chicago, IL
- 2016: Derek Pierce, Casco Bay High School, Portland, ME
- 2015: Lisa Wing, Genesee Community Charter School, Rochester, NY
- 2014: Thabiti Brown, Codman Academy Charter Public School, Dorchester, MA

## Additional questions

Please email [awards@ELeEducation.org](mailto:awards@ELeEducation.org) with additional questions.