



KAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher

Purpose for the Award

Agricultural education is continually faced with a shortage of qualified teachers. Unless those who have been trained enter and remain in the profession for a period of several years, the shortage of qualified teachers will prevail. As a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities, the KAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award program is sponsored by iCEV as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Awards and Recognition

The state winner will receive a plaque and \$500. Recognition will occur at the KAAE Awards and Business Session during the annual CTE Summer Program.

Press releases will be prepared and supplied to local and state media outlets.

Eligibility

KAAE members who are in their third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh year of teaching at the time they apply are eligible for this award. Each applicant must have been a KAAE member the three (3) previous years or continuously since he/she began teaching.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 1. All applications must be submitted online. No printed or emailed applications will be accepted.

Award Application Instructions

- 1. Applicant and Press Release Information** – the first portion of the application must be completed online. No other cover pages should be included.

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. The narrative must follow the outline specified as follows:

- Overview** – brief description of your agricultural education program and the community in which your program exists. (10%)
- Teaching Philosophy** – a brief reflective statement (not to exceed one page) of your personal teaching philosophy. (10%)
- Instruction** – examples of your effective classroom and laboratory instruction including curricula you have developed. (15%)
- Experiential Learning** – examples of your accomplishments in getting students involved in work-based learning such as supervised agricultural experience programs, cooperative education, and internships. (15%)
- Leadership Development** – examples of your accomplishments in developing leadership skills of your students. Students' participation and successes in student organization activities, such as FFA, PAS, and NYFEA but not limited to these organizations may also be included. (15%)
- Partnerships** – examples of your relationships with partners such as volunteers, school and community leaders, industry leaders, and others who have the capacity to support your agricultural education program. (10%)
- Marketing** – examples of how you market (or promote) your local program to groups such as prospective students, parents, school administrators, and community leaders. (10%)
- Professional Growth** – examples of how you stay professionally prepared and up to date in teaching techniques and technical content including information regarding your participation in professional organizations such as NAAE and programs sponsored by NAAE including Communities of Practice. (15%)

- 3. Letter of Reference** – one letter of reference should be uploaded to the online application form. The letter of reference should be from the applicant's direct supervisor (principal, Career Tech Director, etc.). The letter of reference is not considered in the page limitations.
- 4. Supporting Materials** – the supporting materials are limited to eight 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)

Submission

All information and documents must be submitted via the online application form. [Click here to access the application.](#) This form allows an applicant to edit after submission, provided the deadline has not passed.

Evaluation

The KAAE Professional Growth and Awards Committee will oversee the evaluation of all applications, including selecting individuals to serve as evaluators. Evaluation will take place during the State Paperwork Day held in April, or at a time set by KAAE leadership.

A rubric, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#), will be used in scoring all applications.

National-Level Competition

The state winner will be informed of their selection in April immediately after applications have been evaluated. The state winner will be Kentucky's representative for the NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award and will complete the NAAE award application by May 15. More information can be found on [NAAE's Awards and Professional Development Opportunities](#) page.

Questions about this award should be directed to kristan.wright@education.ky.gov