

MEA PRIDE

The Association welcomes the public spotlight and views this awards program as an opportunity to focus on all MEA members whose dedication and commitment to educational excellence are clearly reflected in their work. These members represent the best resources public education has.

It is with intense pride that MEA recognizes exemplary service to Michigan's public schools and students from pre-K to higher education. In presenting these awards for human rights and excellence, MEA acknowledges contributions and achievements and will honor recipients every year throughout the year.

The mission of the MEA is to ensure that the education of our students and the working environments of our members are of the highest quality.

Awards for & Human Rights & Excellence



cll.mea.org/awards



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Awards for & Human Rights & Excellence

Awarded in Even Years

David McMahon Human Rights Award

Outside individual or group accepting the challenge of more and ethical leadership in the field of human and civil rights.

This award recognizes individuals or groups outside the MEA which distinguish themselves by courageously accepting the challenge of moral and ethical leadership in the field of human and civil rights. David McMahon, as a teacher-leader, a MEA Board member, and as a MEA President, acted on his beliefs and initiated policies that resulted in an organizational commitment to protecting and enhancing the human and civil rights of all MEA members.

Maurine Wyatt Feminist and Gender Equity Award

Committed to feminism and human and civil rights for all people and committed to the development of a project, program or study that promotes the value and talents of women.

This award honors educators, female and male, who exhibit a high degree of commitment in their professional and personal lives to human and civil rights. The work must contribute to gender equity in education and must be adaptable to the classroom.

Educational Excellence Award

Committed to educational excellence and concern for improvement of student-focused education.

This award honors individuals committed to educational excellence and concern for improvement of student-focused education. The nominee should have demonstrated commitment to educational excellence and a concern for the improvement of student-focused education.

Gerry Crane Human and Civil Rights Award

Committed to the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ students and members.

This award honors our members who are standing up and providing brave spaces for our LGBTQ+ students and members. Gerry Crane was a compassionate educator from Byron Center, Michigan, who promoted diversity, equity and inclusion, while being forced to resign from his teaching position.

Awarded in Odd Years

Instructional Excellence for Diverse Learners Award

Recognizes an educator or support professional who demonstrates outstanding skill in meeting the unique needs of diverse learners, ensuring measurable student growth and success for all.

This individual demonstrates exceptional skill in teaching and/or provides ancillary support to students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs), 504s, English Language Learners, or any other specialized program. As a result of their work, outstanding student outcomes measured in proficiency or growth are clearly observed. Eligible winners come from the ranks of anyone who services a student in special education: para educators, teachers, higher education instructors/professors and include all ancillary support members in counseling, social workers, speech and language teachers/therapists.

Instructional Excellence Award

Honors an educator whose exceptional teaching results in significant student achievement and growth through dedication, innovation, and instructional mastery.

This individual demonstrates exceptional skill in teaching and has outstanding student outcomes measured in proficiency or growth. Eligible winners come from the ranks of para educators, PK-12 teachers, higher education instructors/professors.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion Award

Celebrates an individual who has shown extraordinary leadership in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, creating meaningful change for underrepresented students and communities.

This individual demonstrates exceptional work advocating for diversity, equity, & inclusion for students in PK-16 public schools and has created or supported a system that had a positive impact on all under represented populations.

Distinguished Servant of Public Education Award

Acknowledges an educator or advocate whose steadfast commitment to public education is reflected through activism, political engagement, and community advocacy that strengthens schools and supports all learners.

This individual positively promotes public education through union activity, political action, and/or community advocacy. Eligible winners come from the ranks of ESP, PK-12 teachers, or higher education.

AWARD PROCESS

To receive consideration, award nominations must be received by the MEA Awards Committee by the date indicated.

Award nominations must be accompanied by a completed nominating form and required documentation in order to be considered. Required documentation must show evidence of the nominee's accomplishments as specified in each award for which they are to be considered.

All nominees and nominating individuals or groups must be MEA members in good standing unless otherwise indicated in the criteria for the award. Nominating individuals or groups may submit nominations for more than one award. Each award must be accompanied by a separate nominating form and required documentation.

To submit a nomination, go to cll.mea.org/awards and complete the PDF form.