

University of Pittsburgh - School of Education Distinguished Alumni Awards Criteria

CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The University of Pittsburgh's School of Education honors the outstanding accomplishments of its graduates through its Distinguished Alumni Award program. Criteria for the Distinguished Alumni Award include recognition of professional achievement, public service to the advancement of the educational field, and a commitment to the continued success of the School of Education and the University of Pittsburgh. The significant contributions of our distinguished award recipients have brought recognition to the University and the School of Education. All School of Education alumni with more than 15 years of professional experience are eligible for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S DISTINGUISHED PREK-12 EDUCATOR AWARD

All School of Education alumni with more than 10 years of professional experience in preK-12 education are eligible for the Distinguished PreK-12 Educator Award. The award recognizes a PreK-12 educator for their outstanding accomplishments in the classroom, administration, support services, and/or extra-curricular activities and programs. The award will use the same three criteria as the other distinguished School of Education Alumni awards. However, service to the University shall be represented by exemplary implementation of the skills learned at the University. School of Education alumni, faculty, and staff may nominate an individual for the Distinguished PreK-12 Educator Award.

CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S DISTINGUISHED EARLY CAREER AWARD

All School of Education alumni who have less than 10 years of professional experience after completing their degrees are eligible for the Distinguished Early Career Alumni Award. The award recognizes a School of Education recent alumnus for their outstanding accomplishments in the classroom, administration, support services, and/or extra-curricular activities and programs. The award will use the same three criteria as the other School of Education Alumni awards. However, service to the University shall be represented by exemplary implementation of the skills learned at the University. School of Education alumni, faculty, and staff may nominate an individual for the Distinguished Early Career Alumni Award.

CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S DISTINGUISHED DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The School of Education recommends consideration of three broad criteria for when selecting recipients for the annual Alumni Awards. Ideally, recipients should be outstanding in at least one area and be of interest to the University for their past service and/or support. Departments (chairs and faculty) are given latitude to select their department recipients using numerous resources including the advice and input from the School of Education Alumni Society, the Dean's Office, an alumnus/alumna familiar with the candidates, and the Office of Development & Alumni Relations in the School of Education. School of Education alumni are allowed to nominate fellow alumni for these awards, however, final selection of the Department Award is made by each department. All alumni with ten years of professional experience are eligible for the Distinguished Departmental Alumni Award.

CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION'S DISTINGUISHED STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Distinguished Student Leadership Award annually recognizes a School of Education student for their accomplishments and contributions and/or service to the School of Education and/or the University of Pittsburgh. Students are recognized for, among others, their research, presentations at conferences and seminars, and service on the Council of Graduate Students in Education (CGSE), School Council, and other school and/or University committees. The Distinguished Student Leadership Award is the School's highest designated award for students. All current students and/or recent graduates (previous academic year) of the School of Education who took an active role in the School of Education are eligible for the Distinguished Student Leadership Award.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ALL OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Criterion I: Professional Accomplishment

- Candidates for Alumni Awards should possess a progressive and prominent record of career success as an educator, in educational research, in educational policy, or a combination of backgrounds.
- Suitable career backgrounds in education would include administrative, teaching, or research and testing positions with schools, agencies, and organizations.
- Research and academic merits of success could include the candidate's impact on the field of education at the local, state, national, and/or international level, or papers, publications, and/or the innovative use of media (i.e. podcasts, videos, dramatic presentations, etc.) that promotes education.

Criterion II: Professional & Public Service

- The School of Education acknowledges excellence not only in career success among its alumni, but also dedication to the advancement of educational fields and the communities dependent upon the contributions teachers make to society.
- Benchmarks used for this criterion can include:
 - Volunteer involvement and service awards conferred by professional organizations and/or academic societies (i.e. Society for Research in Child Development, Society for Public Health Education, Association for the Study of Higher Education, etc).
 - Volunteer involvement in the community is also considered through service or recognition by non-profit organizations (i.e. cultural institutions, human and social service agencies, religious organizations, etc).
 - Service with organizations that contribute to the public good is also considered under this criterion.
- On occasion, the award is made to an alumnus/alumna who has had a particularly outstanding career outside of education, but whose career clearly benefited from study in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

Criterion III: Service & Support to the School of Education and the University of Pittsburgh

- Candidacy for the Alumni Award also requires a demonstrated commitment to the continued advancement and success of the School of Education and the University of Pittsburgh.
- While financial support through charitable gifts is critical to the School of Education and the University of Pittsburgh, the amount of any particular candidate's past giving is not a primary factor when considering this criterion.
- Instead, measures are used such as volunteer involvement with the School of Education, its alumni activities, including alumni outside Pittsburgh who have assisted with arrangements for an alumni event in their area, or involvement in other parts of the University which may include other schools, the Pitt Alumni Association, athletics, and/or the health sciences.