



2018 GUIDELINES

Award for Excellence in Teaching

The biannual Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes five classroom educators from across the United States who employ research-based practices to help students develop positive identities of themselves, cultivate empathy and appreciate different perspectives, think critically about injustice, and develop the skills to take action against injustice.

The 2018 winners will each receive a \$2,500 cash award and an expense-paid trip to historic Montgomery, Alabama, to be honored at the Awardee Summit.

Award Criteria

To be considered for the award, you must:

- ➔ Be a K–12 classroom teacher.
- ➔ Teach in the United States.
- ➔ Provide concrete examples of practice and success.
- ➔ Secure approval to interview and film you and your students in your school.
- ➔ Contribute to projects that demonstrate best practices in anti-bias education over the two-year tenure of the award.
- ➔ Be available to travel to Montgomery, Alabama, for the Awardee Summit, a collaborative workshop and award ceremony, in July 2018.

Awardees must be able to participate in an interview at their school and to secure permission to conduct classroom filming with students during February or March of 2018. Teaching Tolerance will film awardees in their classrooms, allowing their expertise to serve as a model for the half-million educators in the Teaching Tolerance community. The filming may take up to two days and aims to capture best practices in cultural responsiveness and excellence in teaching. Additional footage from classroom visits will be used in Teaching Tolerance professional development resources, social media and marketing, and made available to Teaching Tolerance's nationwide audience.

Selection Criteria

A selection committee that consists of practicing and veteran teachers and scholars will review finalists' portfolios and select the five awardees. To qualify as a finalist, educators must demonstrate excellence in teaching practices that aligns to the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards. The goals of these standards are to help students:

- ➔ Develop positive views of themselves.
- ➔ Be kinder to each other and appreciate different perspectives.
- ➔ Recognize and think critically about injustice.
- ➔ Have the skills and desire to take action against injustice.

For further explanation of these standards please see the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards publication (www.tolerance.org/frameworks/social-justice-standards).

The achievement of these goals will be evaluated through the categories of instruction, classroom management, family and community engagement, and teacher leadership. For further explanation of these categories please see our publication Critical Practices for Anti-bias Education. The following rubric will be used to evaluate nominees:

Instruction

- Uses curriculum to reflect the rich diversity of the world.
- Uses activities to encourage students to take social action.
- Generates critical student engagement, analysis and voice through a variety of strategies and resources.
- Creates opportunities for collaborative and cooperative learning among students.

Classroom Culture

- Creates an inclusive environment that welcomes all students.
- Provides significant opportunities for students to engage with other students, texts, and resources that create an anti-bias classroom community.
- Uses pedagogical and management practices that value student identities and result in their academic achievement.

Family & Community Engagement

- Displays cultural sensitivity in engaging students, their families and communities.
- Values family and community wisdom as an ongoing classroom resource.
- Honors familial connections and contributions and actively involves guardians as partners in learning.

Teacher Leadership

Takes an active role in making their school a more inclusive and equitable place.

Scoring

Each bullet point is scored on a 1 - 5 scale, with 5 being the highest. The highest possible score is a 55.

Award Schedule**November 1, 2017**

Online application opens.

December 10, 2017

Online application closes. Only complete applications will be considered.

January 2018

Teaching Tolerance staff members select and notify 10 finalists.

February 1, 2018

Finalists submit a portfolio that includes:

- A 100-word biography.
- One original lesson plan that demonstrates excellence in the award criteria.
- A 250-word reflection on student work, including examples.
- A short teacher-created video (3–5 minutes) that demonstrates the candidate's proficiency in the award criteria.

February 2018

The awards committee reviews finalists' portfolios and selects five awardees.

Early Spring 2018

Awardees and their principals are notified. Teaching Tolerance staff coordinates classroom interviews and filming.

July 2018

Winners are publicly announced and honored at a celebration in Montgomery, Alabama.