

# AEA Christa McAuliffe Award

*Christa McAuliffe was the first American civilian in space and was one of the seven astronauts who died in the ill-fated explosion of the Challenger space shuttle, January 28, 1986. She was selected from among 100 candidates from all 50 United States. During her training period, she proved to be an inspiration to educators throughout the country. She will be best remembered, however, for her inspirational description of her chosen profession: "I touch the future, I teach."*

At the 1987 AEA Delegate Assembly, the annual Christa McAuliffe "I Touch the Future, I Teach" Award was created to honor an Arizona educator.

A permanent plaque bearing the names of each year's recipient is displayed at AEA headquarters in Phoenix. Each honoree embodies the qualities of the educator for whom this award is named—inspiring, committed, activist, and visionary leader.

The recipient will be selected by the AEA Board of Directors or a designated committee. The awardee will be entered into the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence competition as the Arizona nominee. The AEA Christa McAuliffe recipient will receive a \$1,500 cash award. The nominee must meet the following criteria:

1. Be an AEA/NEA member
2. Exemplify excellence in teaching by:
  - advancing student learning
  - addressing issues of cultural diversity
  - advocating for the profession
  - providing leadership among colleagues
  - being a lifelong learner
  - using creative or innovative ideas.

The winner will be notified in time to be presented with the Award at the annual AEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence ceremony.

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS:

### **Maria Plata, Kyrene Education Association**

Maria seeks programs and strategies that will help to meet individual needs of students, such as implementing the "Daily Five" in order to reach the various reading levels of her students. She teaches students how to choose books at their level, how to monitor their reading through fluency, comprehension, and strategy development and application.

### **Rachel Stafford, Gilbert Education Association**

As the Mesquite High School English Department Chair for the past 14 years, Rachel's love of learning bubbles over in her presentations to department colleagues on what she has learned from various workshops and conventions and her enthusiasm creates a contagious excitement around new approaches to teaching.



# AEA's Annual Christa McAuliffe "I Touch The Future, I Teach" Award

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Nominee) makes me proud to be a teacher because... .  
Complete this statement in an essay of no more than five double-spaced pages by answering these questions:
- a. In what ways has the nominee demonstrated teaching excellence? Please give specific examples.
  - b. In what ways has the nominee advanced student learning and addressed the individual learning needs and styles of students? How does the nominee define and address issues of cultural diversity in his or her professional work?
  - c. How has the nominee demonstrated advocacy for the profession, for public education, and for students? Please provide an example of each.
  - d. How has the nominee demonstrated teaching leadership among colleagues and been recognized as exemplary by peers, education organizations, or others familiar with the nominee's collegial work? How has the nominee undertaken engagement with parents and/or the community? Please provide examples.
  - e. How is the nominee exemplary as a lifelong learner? Has the nominee pursued professional development opportunities, applied in the classroom what has been learned, and shared results with colleagues?
  - f. In what ways is the nominee creative or innovative? Please give examples.
  - g. Are there other special characteristics or significant professional achievements that distinguish the nominee?

2. Complete a one-page summary of the nominee's career (degrees earned, positions held, and current work).

3. Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

4. I am aware that I have been nominated for the Christa McAuliffe Award.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Teaching Position \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's School and District \_\_\_\_\_

5. I attest that this nominee is a member in good standing of the Arizona Education Association and has been an active Association participant as a volunteer and/or leader.

Signature of president of nominee's local association \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of local association \_\_\_\_\_

Your return packet should include this completed form; the Nominee's one-page career summary; the essay response to question 1 (max. 5 pages), and up to three endorsement letters, each no longer than two typewritten pages. Letters of endorsement should specify how long the writer has known the nominee and in what capacity the writer is able to comment on the nominee's professional work.

## DEADLINE: MARCH 1

### MAIL

#### **AEA McAuliffe Award**

Arizona Education Association  
345 East Palm Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

### EMAIL

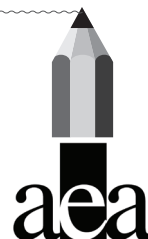
Foundation@ArizonaEA.org

### CALL

602-407-2321

### FAX

602-407-2371



Arizona Education Association