



Awards Nomination Criteria

General Information

- **It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that all requirements for candidacy are met prior to nomination.**
- Except for Legislator of the Year, all candidates **must** be a current member of Virginia AHPERD. Any Virginia AHPERD member may submit nominations to the chair of the awards committee. Nominees will be notified via email and will be provided with dates and details for the submission of award packets for consideration. Please make sure that email addresses are correct on the nomination form. All nomination forms should be typed. **The deadline for nominations is May 15, 2025.**

Award Categories and Criteria

Teacher of the Year

The criteria for the following awards are the same. Supportive material should reflect the appropriate teaching level and subject area.

- **Elementary Physical Education (K-5)**
 - **Middle School Physical Education (6-8)**
 - **Middle School Health Educator (6-8)**
 - **Secondary School Health Educator (9-12)**
 - **Secondary School Physical Educator (9-12)**
1. Major responsibility teaching in the award category for at least five years.
 2. Serves as a role model, utilizes varied and innovative teaching methods, and conducts a balanced and sequential curriculum.
 3. Active in local, state and national professional organizations.
 4. Three to five letters of reference based on the preceding criteria, from school principals, parents and colleagues are required. Supplementary supportive materials are encouraged.
 5. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD

Adapted Physical Educator

1. Major responsibility teaching Adapted Physical Education (any level) for at least five years.
2. Effectiveness in assessing student needs and planning varied and innovative programs which meet individual differences.
3. Active in local, state and national professional organizations.
4. Three-five letters of recommendation based on the preceding criteria from supervisors, parents and colleagues must be submitted. Supplementary supportive materials are encouraged
5. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD

College/University Physical Educator

1. At least five years of teaching experience in a two- or four-year college in Virginia with major responsibility for teaching physical education.
2. Show teaching effectiveness through positive student and administrator evaluations.
3. Helps students to understand their own health and fitness requirements.
4. Active member of local, state and/or national professional organizations.
5. Three-five letters of reference from college/university colleagues based on the award criteria should be submitted. Supplementary supportive materials are encouraged.
6. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD

College/University Health Educator

1. At least five years of teaching experience in a two- or four-year college in Virginia with major responsibility for teaching health education
2. Show teaching effectiveness through positive student and administrator evaluations.
3. Helps students to understand their own health and fitness requirements.
4. Active member of local, state and/or national professional organizations.
5. Three-five letters of reference from college/university colleagues based on the award criteria should be submitted. Supplementary supportive materials are encouraged.
6. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD

Recreation Professional

1. Job responsibility teaching Recreation or acting as a program planner or administrator in Recreation for at least five years.
2. Positive role model who is enthusiastic, creative and effective.
3. Active involvement in local, state and national recreation organizations.
4. Three-five letters of recommendation based on the award criteria from school officials, colleagues and/or prominent citizens must be submitted. Supplementary supportive materials are encouraged.
5. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD.

K-12 Dance Educator

1. Must teach K-12 dance for at least five years (at least 50% of teaching time must be devoted to teaching dance)
2. Teaches creatively, emphasizing the aesthetic and cultural components of dance
3. Provides opportunities for students to share their creative work with appropriate audiences
4. Three to five letters of recommendation
5. Active membership in local, state and/or national dance organizations
6. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD

College/University Dance Educator

1. Must teach at a college or university with at least five years of experience
2. Teach creatively with current methodology and knowledge
3. Encourage a comprehensive appreciation for dance as a performing art, engaging in “live” or filmed performances or works
4. Apply the National Dance Standards in dance curriculum
5. Three to five letters of recommendation
6. Active membership in local, state and/or national dance organizations
7. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD

Other Awards

Supervisor

1. Major responsibility supervising health, physical education, recreation or dance for at least five years.
2. Serves as a positive role model and encourages sensitivity and innovative learning experiences for teachers.
3. Active membership in Virginia AHPERD and SHAPE America or National Academy of Health & Physical Literacy.
4. Conducts workshops and seminars for teachers.
5. Active in local, state, and national professional organizations.
6. Three to five letters of reference based on the award criteria from school officials and colleagues are required. Supplementary supportive materials are encouraged.

Legislator of the Year

Candidate must be a state or national Senator, Delegate or Representative who has made a major contribution to Health, Physical Education, Recreation or Dance. No application form is necessary.

Outstanding Coach

1. Male or female coach who has made significant contributions to girls' and women's athletics.
2. Virginia AHPERD member for at least eight years.
3. Three letters of recommendation.

Honor Award

1. Member of Virginia AHPERD and SHAPE America or National Academy for Health & Physical Literacy for ten years.
2. Fifteen years of distinctive service in Health, Physical Education, Recreation or Dance.

Pioneer Award

1. Retiree who has provided outstanding service to Virginia AHPERD.
2. Member of Virginia AHPERD at least 15 years.
3. Leadership through an elected and/or appointed office for at least five years.
4. Significant contribution to the professional development of colleagues.