



# AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

## Optometric Educator of the Year Award

The American Optometric Association (AOA) Optometric Educator of the Year Award recognizes the deserving individual member educator for performance of outstanding services on behalf of the profession, optometric education and to the visual welfare of the public.

### ELIGIBILITY

1. The nominee must hold a full-time, part-time or adjunct faculty appointment at an accredited school or college of optometry.
2. Nominees should fulfill active roles in their communities, as well as their schools, and be distinguished leaders. The person's achievements and contributions must have benefited optometric education, the profession of optometry and/or the community.
3. Nominees must be an AOA member in good standing. ***\*Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are NOT eligible for consideration.\****
4. Only affiliated association nominees are eligible and only one nominee per affiliated association will be considered in any one year. A nominee can also be resubmitted in later years if the affiliated association has honored the nominee as an Educator of the Year and wishes to submit this nominee as its candidate due to continued or new service.

### NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

The nomination must include the following elements:

1. [Online Nomination Form](#)
2. **Individual Nominee's Resume:** Include the nominee's resume or biography describing their background.
3. **Nomination Statement:** A type-written statement of at least 500 words (not to exceed 2,000 words) explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as award recipient. The statement should explain the nature of the individual's contribution based on all previous history, not just activities accomplished in the last year.
4. **Photo:** A current head and shoulders photograph must be included.
5. **Supplements:** Supporting documentation, such as letters of recommendation or a curricula vitae, may be attached to the nomination statement; however, these are not a substitute for the content of the nomination statement which must clearly and thoroughly detail the nominee's accomplishments.

### NOMINATION DEADLINE

All nominations for the national award are due by **Monday, February 13** (no exceptions can be made). Any questions can be directed to Yakesha Cooper, AOA Associate Director of Public Relations at [ycooper@aoa.org](mailto:ycooper@aoa.org).

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Nominees will be evaluated according to a point system allocated to five principal areas:

- Service to Optometric Education (30 point maximum)
  - Innovation in teaching
  - Scholarly contributions
  - Leadership in optometric education
- Service to the Visual Welfare of the Public (20 point maximum)
  - With sight-saving groups
  - Legislative activities beneficial to the visual welfare of the public
  - Participation in government health care programs
  - Participation in public service programs such as visual screening projects, etc.
- Service to Optometry (20 point maximum)
  - Contributions of personal effort and time on behalf of the profession's advancement such as service to non-AOA optometric organizations
- Service to the AOA or Affiliate Associations (20 point maximum)
  - Service as an officer, committee chair or member, etc.
  - Promotion of the association's goals and programs
  - Activity in support of the association's projects
  - Involvement in public information activities of the AOA or affiliate
- Public Service to Community (10 point maximum)
  - The country, state or other political subdivision in any capacity
  - Community outreach
  - Religious or service institutions
  - Charitable causes

## **JUDGING AND SELECTION**

The Educator of the Year Award recipient will be selected by the AOA Awards Committee, comprised of the five most recent available past presidents, and honored at Optometry's Meeting. In the event that a suitable nominee is not selected by the panel, no award will be given that year.