

Optometric Educator of the Year Award

PURPOSE

The American Optometric Association 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

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. **Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are NOT eligible for consideration*.**

JUDGING AND SELECTION

Affiliated associations may enter the national program by submitting any eligible optometric educator as their nominee. 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®.

RULES

All nominations for the AOA Optometric Educator of the Year Award shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Nominees must be an AOA member in good standing.
2. Nominations are to be submitted online at aoa.org/awards.
3. A statement, not to exceed 2,000 words, should accompany the nomination explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as the 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. A current head and shoulders photograph must be included.
5. The nominee must hold a full-time, part-time or adjunct faculty appointment at an accredited school or college of optometry.
6. 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.
7. Only one nominee per affiliated association (regardless of the number of institutions within a state) will be considered in any one year.
8. All nominations for the national award must be submitted **March 1** (no exceptions can be made).

CRITERIA

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

I. Service to Optometric Education (30 point maximum)

- Innovation in teaching
- Scholarly contributions
- Leadership in optometric education

II. 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 governmental health care programs
- Participation in public service programs such as visual screening projects, etc.

III. 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

IV. 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.

V. 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

*Approved change by AOA Board of Trustees March 5, 2020.