



Annual AAEE Excellence in EE Awards Descriptions

Lifetime Achievement in Environmental Education

Candidates eligible for this award are those who have spent 20+ years in the environmental education field with the majority of their activities occurring within the State of Arizona. Experience can range from informal settings, to P-12 settings, to higher education, to areas in between these categories. Candidates most competitive for the award should be retired, near retirement, or otherwise near the end of their professional career. Candidates have also contributed significantly to the field of environmental education in Arizona, have been involved in mentorship and service, engaged with diverse communities in an inclusive manner, and have actively engaged with their local communities throughout their career.

Outstanding Environmental Educator in Informal or Non-Formal Settings

Candidates eligible for this award are individuals who are distinguished within the field of environmental education in informal settings. Informal settings are defined as settings that do not primarily occur within a formal classroom or school environment – these can include museums, science centers, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, or similar setting within the State of Arizona. Candidates have completed their work to an outstanding degree that has significantly exceeded expectations, contributed to mentorship and service, engaged with diverse communities in an inclusive manner, and have actively engaged with their local communities. Candidates most competitive for this award should be early to mid-career within their professional experience in environmental education.

Outstanding Environmental Educator in P-12 Settings

Candidates eligible for this award are individuals who are distinguished within the field of environmental education in P-12 settings. This is defined as activities that have primarily occurred within formal classroom or school environments with students ranging from preschool to high school. Candidates have completed their work to an outstanding degree that has significantly exceeded expectations, contributed to mentorship and service, engaged with diverse communities in an inclusive manner, and have actively engaged with their local communities. Candidates most competitive for this award should be early to mid-career within their professional experience in environmental education.



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Outstanding Environmental Educator in Higher Education

Candidates eligible for this award are individuals who are distinguished within the field of environmental education in higher education settings. Higher education is defined as activities that have primarily occurred within the context of an institution of higher education – these are community colleges, tribal colleges, universities, or other similar setting – and primarily work with college and university students. Candidates have completed their work to an outstanding degree that has significantly exceeded expectations, contributed to mentorship and service, engaged with diverse communities in an inclusive manner, and have actively engaged with their local communities. Candidates most competitive for this award should be early to mid-career within their professional experience in environmental education.

Outstanding Environmental Education Program

Candidates eligible for this award are distinguished individual programs within an organization that have contributed significantly to the education of environmental principles in an effective and inclusive manner. Programs should have clear objectives, purpose, and vision with a focus on communities within the State of Arizona. Candidates that are most competitive are specific in their objectives and have clearly demonstrated, through qualitative or quantitative means, that they have succeeded, and continue to succeed, in achieving their purpose.

Outstanding Business Committed to Environmental Education

Candidates eligible for this award are businesses within the State of Arizona that contributed significantly to the education of environmental principles in an effective and inclusive manner. Activities should have clear objectives, purpose, and vision with a focus on communities within the State of Arizona. Candidates that are most competitive are specific in their objectives and have clearly demonstrated, through qualitative or quantitative means, that they have succeeded, and continue to succeed, in achieving their purpose.



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Outstanding Nonprofit Organization Committed to Environmental Education

Candidates eligible for this award are nonprofit organizations (i.e. organizations categorized as 501(c)(3) organizations with the Internal Revenue Service) within the State of Arizona that contributed significantly to the education of environmental principles in an effective and inclusive manner. Activities should have clear objectives, purpose, and vision with a focus on communities within the State of Arizona. Candidates that are most competitive are specific in their objectives and have clearly demonstrated, through qualitative or quantitative means, that they have succeeded, and continue to succeed, in achieving their purpose.

Outstanding Governmental Agency Committed to Environmental Education

Candidates eligible for this award are governmental agencies within the State of Arizona that contributed significantly to the education of environmental principles in an effective and inclusive manner. Governmental agencies are defined as agencies that are directly operated by city, county, tribal, state, or federal governments that serve the State of Arizona primarily. Activities should have clear objectives, purpose, and vision with a focus on communities within the State of Arizona. Candidates that are most competitive are specific in their objectives and have clearly demonstrated, through qualitative or quantitative means, that they have succeeded, and continue to succeed, in achieving their purpose.

Outstanding School or College Committed to Environmental Education

Candidates eligible for this award are P-12 schools, colleges, and universities within the State of Arizona that contributed significantly to the education of environmental principles in an effective and inclusive manner. Activities should have clear objectives, purpose, and vision with a focus on communities within the State of Arizona. Candidates that are most competitive are specific in their objectives and have clearly demonstrated, through qualitative or quantitative means, that they have succeeded, and continue to succeed, in achieving their purpose.



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Outstanding Inclusive Environmental Education Program

Candidates eligible for this award are distinguished individual programs within an organization that have contributed significantly to the education of environmental principles in an effective and inclusive manner. Candidates eligible for this award must have a clear emphasis on diversity and inclusion practices within the State of Arizona. Programs should have clear objectives, purpose, and vision with a focus on communities within the State of Arizona. Candidates that are most competitive are specific in their objectives and have clearly demonstrated, through qualitative or quantitative means, that they have succeeded, and continue to succeed, in achieving their purpose.

Outstanding Junior/Young Professional in Environmental Education

Candidates eligible for this award are those who are 23 years of age or younger who have contributed significantly to the field of environmental education in the State of Arizona. Candidates have completed their work to an outstanding degree that has significantly exceeded expectations.