

To nominate an individual for one of the following awards, please complete the steps below:

- Submit a single, completed NSEA Award Application Form (one form per nominee). Attach a narrative statement explaining why the nominee should receive the NSEA Award indicated. Refer to the appropriate award description in preparing your statement – reasons must be consistent with award criteria.
- In addition to the narrative statement, attach three letters of recommendation from any appropriate source (i.e., fellow members, parents, administrators, etc.)
- Attach any additional documents which may assist the Foundation’s Awards Committee in making its selection (newspaper clippings, letters, project summaries, etc.)
- Applications and attachments will NOT be returned.

Sue Strand Distinguished Leadership Award

Sue Strand was a major figure in union leadership from the late 20th century into the early 2000s. Sue remained active in her unions well into her retirement. She served as President of the Clark County Education Association, President of the Nevada State Education Association, and as Nevada’s NEA Director. She served as a key voice for all union members and our students, shaping how educators organized, engaged with the public, and interacted with policymakers.

The Sue Strand Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to leadership and commitment to advancing the mission and values of our union. Recipients must have served as active members in elected or appointed leadership positions for **15 or more years**. Awardees go above and beyond to support their colleagues, strengthen our profession, and protect the rights of educators and students alike. Their tireless efforts, vision, and unwavering advocacy leave a lasting impact on our union, our schools, and our community.

Against All Odds Award

The Against All Odds Award recognizes an individual who has shown extraordinary courage, resilience, and perseverance in the face of significant challenges. This award honors those who, despite obstacles or adversity, remain steadfast in their commitment to education, their students, and their colleagues. Recipients embody the spirit of determination and hope, inspiring others by demonstrating that dedication and advocacy can prevail even under the most difficult circumstances.

Friend of Education Award

The Friend of Education Award honors an individual, organization, or community partner in the State of Nevada who has made outstanding contributions in support of public education. This award recognizes those who, while not necessarily working within the education profession, demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Nevada's students, educators, and schools. Recipients champion policies, resources, and initiatives that strengthen public education and expand opportunities for all students to thrive. Their dedication reflects the belief that strong public schools are the foundation of a strong Nevada.

Bernard (Bernie) J. Anderson Dedicated Educator Award

Bernie Anderson was a teacher of American History and Government for over 30 years in Reno. His teaching style was known for bringing history to life for his students. Bernie took his passion of education to the Nevada Legislature where he served for nearly 20 years. He was known for bringing educational themes and history into legislative debates, including reading children's books on the Assembly floor on National Reading Day.

The Bernie J. Anderson Dedicated Educator Award honors an individual with **20 or more years of service** who exemplifies an unwavering commitment to students, colleagues, and the profession of education. This award recognizes educators who go above and beyond in their service by demonstrating passion, perseverance, and a deep belief in the power of public education. Recipients inspire their peers, students and others through their professionalism, advocacy, and tireless efforts to create meaningful learning opportunities and strengthen their school community.

Suggestions of information to include with the nomination: Classroom teaching assignments, number of years in each, extracurricular activities, school and district committees; how the nominee demonstrates dedication, innovation, inspiration; how the nominee strives to improve him/herself and teaching; professional organizations; letters from colleagues, parents, and/or students.

Gary A. Gray Government Relations Award

Gary Gray began his professional life as an English teacher in the Clark County School District for almost 20 years before entering political work. Gary helped found and organize the Assembly Democratic Caucus to support and coordinate Democratic legislative campaigns across the state. He consulted for high-profile Democratic candidates and elected officials, shaping strategy, voter targeting, and campaign operations. He ran hundreds of political campaigns and became one of the most sought-after political consultants in Nevada.

The Gary A. Gray Government Relations Award honors individuals who demonstrate an exemplary record of service in political action and government relations. Eligible candidates will have a proven history of effective involvement spanning at least three elections or legislative sessions in one or more of the following roles: (1) TIP Committee member; (2) legislative advocate or ambassador; or (3) release-time lobbyist, who may be nominated after completing one legislative session of service.

Val Arredondo Member Rights Award

Val Arredondo was a teacher and union member of the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association (later known as the Clark County Education Association). Val served as a building senator and grievance representative. He was a long-standing member of the negotiations team for CCCTA/CCEA and was the Teacher Rights Chairperson for the Nevada State Education Association. His work including assisting fellow teachers with preparation and processing of grievances. He was willing to stand up against administrative authority to represent members and faced his own disciplinary action for doing so. His actions protected not just his own role but helped reinforce the rights of union representatives and members in the grievance process.

The Val Arredondo Member Rights Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to protecting and advancing the rights of educators. This award honors those who courageously advocate for fairness, equity, and justice in the workplace, ensuring that the voices of education professionals are heard and respected. Recipients exemplify the core values of solidarity and advocacy, working tirelessly to defend member rights and strengthen the collective power of our union.