

Award Application Packet

This packet contains the following applications:

1. Volunteer of the Year Nomination form
2. Friend Of Education Nomination form
3. Paul Mann Emerging Leader Award Nomination form
4. Ruth Foster Award Nomination form
5. ESP of the Year Award Nomination form

Des Moines Education Association

Volunteer of the Year Nomination for 2026

The **Volunteer of the Year** award will be presented to an outstanding school volunteer. The award will be presented at the DMEA Recognition Dinner. More than one nominee can be submitted by any DMEA member.

- Nomination letters should include the following:
 - Name, address and phone number of the candidate
 - Describe how the nominee has helped your school
 - Explain special circumstances
 - ✓ Amount of time volunteering
 - ✓ Types of service and activities contributed
 - ✓ Attitudes of the students toward the nominee
 - Nomination forms must be signed by a DMEA member. (Please include building name.)

Nomination letters for the **Volunteer of the Year** should be sent to the DMEA office no later than 4:30 p.m. **April 2, 2026.**

- US mail - DMEA address: 206 Center Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
- FAX - 471-8043
- Email: kcrouse@isea.org

The SLA Committee will make recommendations for the **Volunteer of the Year** to the DMEA Executive Board. The final decision will be made by the DMEA Executive Board members.

Past Recipients

2007 Patricia (Grandma Pat) Campbell
2008 Theresa Weeks
2009 Phyllis Burget
2010 Kim Duede
2011 Julie Pickle
2012 Sue Crook
2013 Paul Rogness
2014 Jeremy Geerdes and Ruth Sharp
2015 Andre "Pops" Brooks
2016 Al Perez
2017 Keith Hackle
2018 Joann Peshel
2019 Steve Hall – Westchester Church
2020 Billy "B.Well" Weathers
2021 Nicole Grundmeier
2022 Crystal Loving – CLAT & AMOS
2023 Ray Spence
2024 Cheryl Fontanini
2025 Des Moines Refugee Support

DMEA Friend Of Education Nomination for 2026

The 2026 Friend of Education Award will be presented to a Des Moines community leader who actively supports education. The award will be presented at the Recognition Dinner Thursday, **May 7, 2026** Business partners and organizations will not be considered. DMEA member may submit more than one nominee.

- **Nominee should be a Des Moines community leader.**
- **Nomination letters should include the following:**
 - **Name, address and phone number of the nominee**
 - **Describe how the nominee made a significant contribution to support education in the Des Moines Public Schools.**
 - **Explain how these activities improved the quality of education in Des Moines Schools.**
 - **Nomination forms must be signed by a DMEA member. (Please include building name.)**

The SLA Committee will make recommendations for the **Friend of Education** to the DMEA Executive Board. The final decision will be made by the DMEA Executive Board members.

Nomination letters for the Friend of Education should be sent to the DMEA office no later than 4:30 p.m. April 2, 2026

Nominations can be emailed to the DMEA office.

Email address kcrouse@isea.org

Some past Friends of Education have been:

Arthur Davis - Former Des Moines Mayor
Paul Stanfield - Des Moines Register editorial writer
Donna Stuhr - State Legislative chairperson
Jo Brown - Past President of Des Moines School Board
Walter Galvin - DMEA Executive Director
Connie Boesen - Chair of Schools First
Frances Hawthorn - Retired Principal
Christie Vilsack - First Lady of Iowa
Preston Daniels - Mayor of Des Moines
Gloria Hoffmann - Retired Des Moines School Board President
Dr. James Bowman - Drake Cop 2000 Program
Joe Proctor - President of Proctor Mechanical Corporation
Evelyn Davis - Founder of Des Moines Tiny Tot's
John Wheeler - Iowa State Bar Assoc. Center for Law & Civic Education
Ted Stilwell - Director, Iowa Dept of Educ.
Jon Neiderbach - School Board Member
Dan Keagle - Wietz Company
Robert William Mickle - Community Activist for Public Education
Roger Wendt - House of Educ Chair
Twyla Woods - DMPS Chief of Staff & Student Affairs
Tina Jensen - DMPS Executive Director South & East Elementaries
Mike Draper - RAYGUN Shop
Ruth Ann Gaines - State Representative
Ken Sagar - President of IA Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Natasha Newcomb - DMPS School Board
Rose Green - Parents for Great Iowa Schools
Randy Richardson - Iowans for Public Education
Mark Cooper - South Central Iowa Federation of Labor
Dr. Thomas Ahart - DMPS Superintendent
Connie Ryan - Interfaith Alliance
Dr. Megan Srinivas - Infectious Disease Physician & State Representative
Ako Abdul-Samad - State Representative
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Des Moines Education Association

Guidelines for Paul Mann Emerging Leader Award

The **Paul Mann Emerging Leader Award** may be presented at the DMEA Recognition Dinner to an individual who has demonstrated emerging and growing leadership in the Association at the local, state and/or national level during previous five years.

Nomination Process:

Any member within the Association can submit a signed, dated nomination letter on behalf of another member.

Criteria:

1. Each nominee must be a current member of the DMEA
2. Nominees must have demonstrated emerging and growing leadership in the Association at the local, state and/or national level during previous five years
3. Please provide specific information to support the nomination.

Nomination letters for the **Paul Mann Emerging Leader Award** should be sent to the DMEA office no later than 4:30 p.m. **April 2, 2026**

- US mail - DMEA address: 206 Center Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
- FAX - 471-8043
- Email: kcrouse@isea.org

Selection Committee:

Nominations for the **Paul Mann Emerging Leader Award** shall be reviewed by the selection committee comprised of the DMEA President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and ISEA Executive Board Representative. This committee shall select from the nominees, the recipient of the award.

Past Recipients

2007	Melissa Spencer Meggan Boyle
2008	David O'Connor
2009	Joshua Brown
2010	Diane Gladson
2011	Andrew Rasmussen
2012	Catherine Sand
2013	Pamela Bemis
2014	Blake Hammond
2015	Courtney Starbuck
2016	Sara Earleywine
2017	Carrie Neuhaus
2018	Anne Cross
2019	Zipporah Smith
2020	Rebecca Marks
2021	Emma Bade
2022	Shawna Hughes
2023	Logan Hemphill
2024	Zachary Smith
2025	Brooke Austin

Des Moines Education Association
Guidelines for RUTH FOSTER AWARD

The **Ruth Foster Award** shall be presented each spring at the DMEA Recognition Dinner to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Association.

Nomination Process:

Any group within the Association can file nomination papers on behalf of an individual.

Criteria:

1. Each nominee must be a current member of the DMEA and a member of the Association for the past 10 years.
2. Nominees must not be a member of the Executive Board at the time of receiving the award, unless retiring from the profession.
3. Nominees must have demonstrated service and leadership in a variety of DMEA, ISEA, and/or NEA positions and activities.
4. Please provide specific information to support the nomination.
5. Nominations should be signed by the chair of the nominating group and include the current date.

Past Recipients

1987 Ruth Foster
1988 Herman Kirkpatrick
1989 Paul Mann
1990 Agnes Brewton and Karen Inman
1991 Miles Browne
1992 Frieda Griffin
1993 Angie King
1994 Hance Throckmorton
1995 Lowell Perry
1996 James Wickham
1997 Everett Fensterman
1998 David Wilkinson
1999 Merlin Papenheim
2000 Gary Curtis
2001 Jim Patch
2002 Patricia Papenheim
2003 Kristine Mesicek
2004 Christopher Miller
2005 Alice Boyd
2006 Lesley Martin
2007 Karen Reese

2008 Linda Sibley
2009 Deborah Henry
2010 Lola Mann
2011 Alan Young
2012 Patricia Trump
2013 David O'Connor
2014 Rich Bright
2015 Rhonda Anderson
2016 Peggy Aerisolphal
2017 Chris Bern
2018 Rita Rogers
2019 Timothy Tutt
2020 Andrew Rasmussen
2021 Helen Copley
2022 Vicki Bonnett
2023 Kathleen Wells
2024 Patricia Gronewold
2025 Blake Hammond

Nomination letters for the **Ruth Foster Award** should be sent to the DMEA office no later than 4:30 p.m. **April 2, 2026.**

- US mail - DMEA address: 206 Center Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
- FAX - 471-8043
- Email: kcrouse@isea.org or dmeapresident@isea.org

Selection Committee:

Nominations for the **Ruth Foster Award** shall be reviewed by the selection committee comprised of the DMEA President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and ISEA Executive Board Representative. This committee shall select from the nominees, the recipient of the award.

Des Moines Education Association

Education Support Professional of the Year Nomination

The **Education Support Professional of the Year** award is presented to an outstanding Education Support Professional member of DMEA.

Criteria:

- Nominees must be a current DMEA member in good standing.
- Nominees must be employed as an Educational Support Professional:
 - Associate
 - Clerical (office manager, registrar, bookkeeper, secretary, clerk)
 - Campus Monitor
 - Bilingual Family Liaison
 - Community School Coordinator
 - Sign Language Interpreter
 - Success Case Manager

Nomination letters should include the following:

- Name, job title, and schools in which they work
- Current and previous positions for the schools, additional school/district roles, education, training, certifications (if known)
- How has the nominee demonstrated service and leadership in a variety of positions and activities? How has the nominee enhanced and promoted the image of ESP?
- How has the nominee made an impact in the community? What other organizations is the nominee involved in? Have they received any achievements or honors?
- Describe specific actions the nominee has taken and how these actions positively impacted students, staff, and the school community. Describe how the nominee collaborates with others and the impact it has.

Nomination letters for the **Education Support Professional of the Year** should be sent to the DMEA office no later than 4:30 p.m. on the last **April 2, 2026**.

- US mail: DMEA, 206 Center Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
- Fax: (515) 471-8043
- Email: kcrouse@isea.org

The DMEA ESP Executive Board will make recommendations for the **Education Support Professional of the Year** to the DMEA Executive Board. The final decision will be made by the DMEA Executive Board Members.