

# 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](mailto: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 Geerde 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](mailto: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 Tots  
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](mailto: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	2008 Linda Sibley
1988 Herman Kirkpatrick	2009 Deborah Henry
1989 Paul Mann	2010 Lola Mann
1990 Agnes Brewton and Karen Inman	2011 Alan Young
1991 Miles Browne	2012 Patricia Trump
1992 Frieda Griffin	2013 David O'Connor
1993 Angie King	2014 Rich Bright
1994 Hance Throckmorton	2015 Rhonda Anderson
1995 Lowell Perry	2016 Peggy Aerisolphal
1996 James Wickham	2017 Chris Bern
1997 Everett Fensterman	2018 Rita Rogers
1998 David Wilkinson	2019 Timothy Tutt
1999 Merlin Papenheim	2020 Andrew Rasmussen
2000 Gary Curtis	2021 Helen Copley
2001 Jim Patch	2022 Vicki Bonnett
2002 Patricia Papenheim	2023 Kathleen Wells
2003 Kristine Mesicek	2024 Patricia Gronewold
2004 Christopher Miller	2025 Blake Hammond
2005 Alice Boyd	
2006 Lesley Martin	
2007 Karen Reese	

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](mailto:kcrouse@isea.org) or [dmeapresident@isea.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.