To: NRCSA Member Schools

Re: Awards

Each year NRCSA honors individuals from schools that are members of the organization. Awards include Outstanding Board Member, Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Secondary Teacher, Elementary Teacher, Classified Staff Member, and ESU Staff Member. NRCSA also recognizes an outstanding music teacher in memory of Gary Fisher. One of the winning teachers will be recommended for the National Rural Teacher of the Year Program sponsored by the National Rural Education Association.

**Only one candidate from each member school may be nominated for each award. No applications from any school violating this provision will be considered.**

There will only be one individual in each category recognized for their outstanding contributions to education.

The nomination forms may be accessed on the NRCSA website (www.nrcsa.net). Forms can be filled out electronically, but a hard copy must be submitted.

Respectfully Yours,



Jack Moles, Executive Director, NRCSA

**NRCSA OUTSTANDING ESU STAFF MEMBER AWARD**

The Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association will be presenting the annual Outstanding ESU Staff Member Award to an outstanding Educational Service Unit staff member at the 2025 Spring Conference in Kearney, Nebraska, on March 20th and 21st. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in service to rural schools by ESU personnel. The nomination form, including supporting documents, must be forwarded by an administrator or board of education member in one packet.

 Criteria for Selection:

1.  The nominee must presently serve as a staff member in an Educational Service Unit that serves rural schools.

2.  The nominee shall have at least five years of experience as a staff member in an Educational Service Unit and be nominated by an NRCSA member.

3.  The award is designed to recognize staff members who have shown leadership and creativity in helping to meet the needs of the rural schools that they serve. Such activities may include, but not be limited to: (a) providing service to rural schools that the schools may not be able to provide on their own, (b) finding unique ways to provide services to rural schools, (c) unique use of media and technology in an educational setting, (d) providing leadership in staff development, educational technology, special services, or other similar areas, or (e) leadership activities in promoting educational excellence in rural schools.

4.  The nominee enjoys the respect and support of administrators, teachers, fellow ESU staff members, and Board of Education members within their ESU area.

Each nomination must be submitted on the form on the next page with all supporting evidence in one packet and returned to:

 James Widdifield, Superintendent

 Minden Public Schools

 543 West 5th Street

 Minden, NE 68959

The packet must be postmarked no later than **Friday, February 7, 2025** – NO EXCEPTIONS

**OUTSTANDING ESU STAFF MEMBER AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Nominee: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Present Position: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Present Address: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Name and Title of Person Making Nomination: |  |

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| Telephone Number of Person Making Nomination: |  |

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| Email Address of Person Making Nomination: |  |

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| Email Information for Local Media: |  |

Please supply contact information for local media (newspaper, radio, TV). Please include either mailing addresses or email addresses.

The individual submitting the nomination needs to respond to the following questions on school letterhead. (This information is not considered a letter of recommendation but as a requirement for nomination):

1. Has the nominee served as a staff member in an Educational service Unit for at least five years? Please list all ESU’s and schools, locations, and the number of years of service in each.

2. How has the nominee been a creative leader in providing services to rural schools?

3. How has the nominee attained the respect and support of fellow ESU staff members, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members?

Each member school district may nominate only one ESU staff member each year.

A maximum of three letters of recommendation may be included to validate this nomination

The nomination packet with all forms and recommendation letters must be postmarked no later than Friday, **February 7, 2025**, and returned to:

 James Widdifield, Superintendent

 Minden Public Schools

 543 West 5th Street

 Minden, NE 68959