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 PRINCIPAL AWARD**

The Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association will be presenting the annual Outstanding Principal Award to a rural Nebraska principal at the 2025 Spring Conference in Kearney, Nebraska, on March 20th and 21st. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in rural administration. 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 be presently employed as a principal or assistant principal in an NRCSA member school.

2.  The nominee shall have served as principal in one or more rural schools for a minimum of five years.

3.  The nominee serves in an NRCSA member school.

4.  The nominee enjoys the respect and support of students, teachers, patrons, board members, and fellow administrators.

5. The nominee has exercised a leadership role in organized efforts to improve curriculum and instruction and to promote the cause of improving rural education in Nebraska.

6. The nominee exercises community leadership.

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 PRINCIPAL AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

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

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

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 principal or assistant principal in a Nebraska rural school for at least five years? Please list the schools, locations, and the number of years of service.

2. How does the nominee demonstrate leadership and creativity as an administrator, including membership in professional organizations and offices held in those organizations?

3. How has the nominee attained the respect and support of patrons of the district(s) they have served, other administrators, teachers, and students as validated by the supporting letters?

4. How has the nominee exercised leadership in improving the curriculum and instruction and promoting rural education in Nebraska?

5. How does the nominee show evidence of community leadership? Please list organizational work and offices held.

Each member school may nominate only one principal 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