

**Columbia Union Outstanding Educator Award 2014-2015**

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**Rationale:**

The Columbia Union Office of Education, consistent with its mission, seeks to appreciate and recognize outstanding teaching professionals that, as Seventh-day Adventist educators, have demonstrated consistent excellence in the following areas:

* Practical applications and/or promotion of creative, innovative, measurable teaching strategies that have improved student learning/academic growth.
* Expansion of curricula and/or school programming *(including extra-curricular activities)* that enhance the enrichment of learning and students’ day-to-day school experience.
* Implementation of programs and/or outreach that has significantly and measurably enriched the local communities *(public and church constituencies)* served.

The *Columbia Union Outstanding Educator Award* will be given annually; and consists of the following:

* An appropriately inscribed plaque/award.
* A $1,000 check – to be used at the discretion of the recipient.
* A certificate of recognition.

Nominations are to be submitted to the Columbia Union Office of Education on or before November 1 of each academic year. The Office of Education will:

* Carefully review each application.
* Carefully vet each candidate through responses to a select set of questions to which the nominee must respond in writing, and questions posed in a personal interview with one or more of the Office of Education directors
* A standardized, objective approach (metrics) will be employed to identify distinctions between nominees in order for the Office of Education to determine which of the nominees shall be awarded.

**Eligibility:**

For the nominee to qualify for this award, he/she must:

* Be a full-time Seventh-day Adventist teacher working in a Seventh-day Adventist school/academy, located in the Columbia Union Conference and fully accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association.
* Be a denominationally-certificated teacher with ***current*** certification.
* Have been employed in the Columbia Union for a minimum of three (3) years and worked in the field of education for a minimum of five (5) years.
* Maintain at least one current professional association membership.
* Be nominated by a local superintendent, in the case of small schools, and/or a principal in large schools *(4 or more teachers).*

Nominees must also meet the following criteria:

* Facilitate team-play with colleagues *(administration and faculty)*, constituent churches, local conference and union personnel.
* Consistently participate in professional growth activities *(attend seminars, workshops, conventions, graduate study, evaluation teams, or participate in union committees, i.e., CUCC, CUSAC).*
* Be a spiritual role model to fellow faculty and students *(influence, guide, mentor).*
* Be active in his/her local church.

**Guidelines:**

Nomination forms are readily available on the Columbia Union Conference website, on the **Education** link *(see menu bar at* [*www.columbiaunion.org*](http://www.columbiaunion.org)*).* Elements and guidelines include:

1. Local conference superintendents (including associates) and academy principals will be reminded on or before September 1 of each academic year of the nominating process and be encouraged to submit at least one nomination per conference. No more than two (2) nominees from any one conference may be submitted.
2. Applications and nominee forms must be **fully completed**, including a response to each application question, and signed by the conference superintendent and, in the case of an academy teacher, the principal of the academy ***prior*** to submitting the application.
3. Nominees are to be recognized both at the local school board and conference K-12 board levels.
4. Nominations are to be submitted on or before November 1st of each academic year.
5. The CU Office of Education will carefully vet each candidate, reviewing responses to a select set of questions and through personal interviews.
6. The CU Office of Education will inform the award recipient’s local conference superintendent before any public announcement of the recipient is made.
7. The award will be presented to the recipient by a director of the Columbia Union Office of Education either at (1) a regularly scheduled conference K-12 board meeting or (2) at the annual conference camp meeting. The choice will be that of the recipient.
8. The recipient will allow photos of the award presentation to be placed on the CU Website and appear in the Columbia Union VISITOR with an accompanying article, at the discretion of the Columbia Union Office of Education.



**Columbia Union Outstanding Administrator Award 2014-2015**

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**Rationale:**

The Columbia Union Office of Education, consistent with its mission, seeks to appreciate and recognize outstanding professionals that, as Seventh-day Adventist administrators, have demonstrated consistent excellence in the following areas:

* Instructional leadership practices that enrich the school program.
* Spiritual leadership within the Adventist worldview in his/her school which positively impacts the lives of students while enriching the learning community he/she leads.
* Implementation of programs and/or outreach that have significantly and measurably enriched the local communities *(public and church constituencies)* served.
* Promotion of a culture where emotional and physical safety, open communication, professional development are practiced.
* Practice of innovative and transformational leadership.

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* A standardized, objective approach (metrics) will be employed to identify distinctions between nominees in order for the Office of Education to determine which of the nominees shall be awarded.

**Eligibility:**

For the nominee to qualify for this award, he/she must:

* Be a full-time Seventh-day Adventist administrator working in a Seventh-day Adventist school/academy, located in the Columbia Union Conference and fully accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association.
* Be a denominationally-certificated with ***current*** certification.
* Have been employed in the Columbia Union for a minimum of three (3) years and worked in the field of education for a minimum of five (5) years.
* Maintain at least one current professional association membership.
* Be nominated by a local superintendent.

Nominees must also meet the following criteria:

* Work in close collaboration with local conference office of education
* Be active in his/her local church
* Provide financial leadership to the institution
* Articulate a vision and mission

**Guidelines:**

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1. Local conference superintendents (including associates) and academy principals will be reminded on or before September 1 of each academic year of the nominating process and be encouraged to submit at least one nomination per conference. No more than two (2) nominees from any one conference may be submitted.

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3. Nominees are to be recognized both at the local school board and conference K-12 board levels.

4. Nominations are to be submitted on or before November 1st of each academic year.

5. The CU Office of Education will carefully vet each candidate, reviewing responses to a select set of questions and through personal interviews.

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