

Professional, Human, and Civil Rights Awards

PURPOSE

The purposes of the TSTA Professional, Human, and Civil Rights Awards are:

- to honor educators, local associations, regional associations and friends of education for distinguished service in promoting professional and human rights activities in Texas;
- to honor individuals and/or organizations outside the field of education for outstanding contributions in the area of professional and human rights in Texas; and
- to encourage and promote professional and human rights activities throughout the state of Texas.

CATEGORIES

- A. Individual Award**—This award will be available for presentation annually to an educator who has made outstanding contributions to professional and human rights. The recipient must be a member of TSTA and must be recommended for the award by the local association professional and human relations committee and the local association executive committee.
- B. Special Award**—This award will be available for presentation to an individual, association, or organization inside or outside the area of education for outstanding contributions to professional and human rights. The recipient of this award does not have to be a member of an affiliate of TSTA, unless eligible, but must be recommended to receive the award by a TSTA affiliated association. Local and regional associations may nominate themselves for outstanding professional and human relations programs.
- C. Mickey Leland Memorial Award**—This award is available for presentation to individuals or organizations that have initiated or engaged in projects or activities that have established an ongoing program or institution that have had a positive widespread social, educational, economic or political impact, especially those projects and activities that help the needy in ways that exemplify the achievement and work of Mickey Leland.
- D. Willie Velasquez Memorial Award**—This award is available for presentation to individuals or organizations that have initiated or engaged in projects or activities that have worked to eradicate inequities based on race, gender, or ethnicity and have worked to improve inter-group relations and understanding among racial/ethnic groups, especially those projects and activities that assist the politically disenfranchised in becoming more involved in the political process in ways that exemplify the achievement and work of Willie Velasquez.

PROCEDURES

- A. Nominations**—Any member, local association, regional association, and/or statewide affiliate may make one (1) nomination in each category. Former nominees may be renominated, but a recipient of a human relations award in the individual category is not eligible for future nominations in that particular category.

The nomination form should be accompanied by supporting evidence such as photographs, programs, newspaper articles, and a brief description of the project which has been accomplished. In each category, there should be evidence that positive change toward better human relations was the direct result of the activities of the person, association or organization nominated. This information and evidence should be kept to a minimum as the awards are given based on the merit of the recipient, not the presentation itself. Nominations must be made on an official entry form available from TSTA. Each nomination should be on a separate form. Entries become the property of TSTA; however, every effort will be made to return material when specifically requested to do so. Nomination must be received at TSTA Headquarters in Austin by a deadline which is established annually. Upon receipt of the nomination, the nominating organization will be notified.

- B. Selection**—The Selection committee will be composed of members of the state Community and Instructional Advocacy Committee or a special committee appointed by the President. The Chair of the state Community and Instructional Advocacy Committee or designee, will chair the Selection Committee. The committee will consider such things as: the amount of positive change for better human relations which took place as a result of the project; whether or not the project is of continuing duration; whether or not many categories were included in the activity— that is, students, teachers, community workers, parents, minority groups, paraprofessionals, and administrators, and the overall benefits to the United Education Profession.
- C. Presentation**—The President and Chairperson of the state Community and Instructional Advocacy Committee will make a formal presentation of the award(s) at the state House of Delegates. The award will be a plaque. The nominating TSTA member or affiliate, in cooperation with the state Community and Instructional Advocacy committee should make every effort to ensure that the recipient of each award is present at the time of presentation. Award winners will be provided one (1) night's lodging, if needed.

Official Nomination Form

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*The entry and nomination form must be received at TSTA by 5:00 p.m. CST on February 1.
The awards will be presented at the Awards Program during the TSTA State Convention.*

Nominating Association and/or Individual: _____

President: _____ Date: _____

Human Relations Chairperson: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

I nominate the following person for the TSTA Professional, Human, and Civil Rights Award in the category indicated: (please check only one)

Individual **Mickey Leland Memorial Award** **Special** **Willie Velasquez Memorial Award**

Nominee: _____ Soc. Sec.: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email _____

Please itemize all supportive materials submitted with this nomination form and indicate to whom the materials are to be returned.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Return materials to: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

**RETURN TO: TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance,
Professional, Human, and Civil Rights Awards, 316 West 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701 .**