The National Dance Education Organization recognizes the achievements of outstanding dance educators through the annual National Awards program. The major awards for the organization are listed below. Please read the following material closely, and in its entirety.

What Do All Award Recipients Receive?

- A plaque honoring their achievement
- All national award recipients will be invited to a virtual awards ceremony in September, Date TBD.
- A complimentary year of NDEO membership
- Invited to participate in a Panel Session at the 2023 National Conference in Denver, CO. Session will be mediated by Awards Committee Chair, Yauri Dalencour. Topic of session TBD. Learn more about NDEO's National Conference. Conference Fees Apply.
- We also work with NDEO National Award winners over the course of the year to highlight their expertise through different NDEO programs, including OPDI Courses, Webinars, and more!
- Various highlights of award recipients achievements through social media, slide shows, and features on our website. See 2022 Award Winners!

As we shift into a more inclusive ecosystem as a leader in the field, we recognize that NDEO has historically lacked diversity across our leadership and membership in regards to BIPOC* individuals. Highlighting the achievements and contributions of all Dance Educators, our goal is to increase the visibility of dedicated, talented, and passionate leaders of Dance Education in the field across various sectors. With this in mind, the awards categories are expanding, new nomination processes are being put in place and we encourage members to be inclusive in their nomination(s) - a little research goes a long way. NDEO is committed to recognizing dance educators that are representative of our membership, with that, NDEO considers presenter demographics when adjudicating award nominees to ensure accurate representation of the field.

2023 National Award Categories

NDEO Members and Non-Members are Eligible to Apply for an Award and in 2022 we increased the number of Awards from 4 to 9!

- **Two Outstanding Dance Educator Awards (PK-12):** This award acknowledges one stellar emerging (5 years of less experience) dance educator and one stellar established (6 years or more experience) dance educator who teaches in an Independent Sector Setting. The recipient of this award should inspire and motivate their students and have a significant impact in their school community.

- **Four Outstanding Leadership Awards:** There are four categories of Leadership Awards this year in the following areas: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Higher Education, K-12, and Independent Sector. These awards are given to an individual who has demonstrated
excellence in creating ideas for programs, curriculums, and/or projects that have had a significant impact on their specific field of dance education and who has demonstrated leadership on a local, state, regional, national and/or international level. Additionally, the recipient of this award should inspire and cultivate vision and leadership in others.

- **One Outstanding Dance Education Researcher:** This award recognizes an individual who has made a unique contribution to the field of dance education through creative and/or scholarly research. The recipient of this award should cultivate the importance of scholarly and creative research throughout the field of dance education.

- **Two Lifetime Achievement Awards: One for a Living Artist/Educator & One Posthumous Award.** The NDEO Lifetime Achievement Award honors a dance educator with exemplary leadership, research, scholarship and/or artistry, and philanthropy or service to dance education. The honoree will have contributed to the field of dance education at the national and/or international levels for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious award the organization confers. Nominees will be evaluated in the following areas: 1) Impact and contributions of lifetime achievements to the field of dance education; 2) Advocacy for the field of dance and dance in education at the national and/or international level, 3) Innovativeness of contributions to the arts and dance education; and 4) Recognition by peers as an influential figure in the dance or dance education communities.

**Eligibility Requirements for All Awards**

- Nominees DO NOT need to be members of NDEO at time of application for an award.
- A person may nominate themselves (self-nominate), except for Lifetime Achievement.
- Current NDEO Board of Director Members are not eligible for a National Award in 2022.
- No person that has received a National Award in the past five years (2018-2022) is eligible for a National Award in 2023

**Application Guidelines for All Awards**

- The nominee’s name should be submitted as he/she wishes it to appear on all NDEO printed materials, including the actual award.
- To apply for the award, nominator/nominee must complete the Phase 1 quick online application form. The link to the Phase 1 Nomination Form can be found here. The Longer Phase 2 application form will be emailed out to interested applicants.
- Nominators (individual or organization) may nominate only one (1) candidate in each category.
- Nominators and award recipients should expect to attend the Virtual Awards Ceremony in September 2023, prior to the National Conference. Exact date is TBD.
- Awardees are invited but not required to participate in a Panel Session at the 2023 National Conference in Denver, CO. Session will be mediated by Awards Committee Chair, Yauri Dalencour. Topic of session TBD. Learn more about NDEO's National Conference.
- Awards will be given only when warranted at the sole discretion of the Awards Committee.
- The committee, at its discretion, may hold interviews with appropriate persons from the candidate’s work environment.
- Nominations will not be held over for submission the following year.
- Only the required materials will be reviewed. Additional materials will not be forwarded to the evaluation committee.
• NDEO is committed to recognizing dance educators that are representative of our membership, with that, NDEO considers presenter demographics when adjudicating award nominees to ensure accurate representation of the field.

**Required Materials for All Awards:**

**Quick Application Form (Phase 1):** Complete the Phase 1 Quick Application Form to declare your intent to apply for a National Award or to nominate an outstanding dance educator who should be sent the full application in Phase 2.

- Applicant contact information
- (optional, but highly recommended) 200 word biography - can be a bio published on a website or one provided by the nominee.

**Longer Application Form (Phase 2):** The following application will be emailed out to those who submitted Phase 1 interest Application.

- Long statement - 400 words statement by person self nominating or from nominator describing why you or the person you nominated qualifies and deserves to be recognized for this award. Lifetime Achievement nominees must use a statement from their nominator.
- Tell Us More About You- Please include an overview, in any method or medium, of the nominees work. Some examples of ways to present your overview include CV, Instagram, Website, or social "portfolio", A video (under 3 minutes), Audio recording (voice memo, under 3 minutes), Info Graphic (with or without active links), Or any other format you wish to use.

**Additional Required Materials:**

**Additional Required Materials for Outstanding Dance Educator in PK-12:**

Two letters of support (Recommendation Letters) that discuss the candidate’s specific approach to teaching. *(Please see evaluation criteria below).*

- The letters can be from an NDEO member or professional outside the organization who can speak to the impact of the nominee’s work at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international level.
- It is recommended that one of letters be from a current/former student, however it also can be from a professional colleague.

The letters should provide a detailed picture of how the nominee creates student-centered learning experiences that contribute to the development of the field. Letters should address the following points:

- The applicant's student-centered approach to teaching
- The extent of experiential, holistic, and authentic approaches/experiences in the studio / classroom
- The opportunities the applicant provides for student expression, reflective practice, and collaborative practices
- The level of challenge in the studio / classroom
- Any innovative pedagogical practices

The *nominee's written philosophical statement of dance education* in relation to standards-based arts education, and/or their understanding of their role as a teacher, colleague and mentor. This statement should include the nominee’s expectations for their future contributions to dance and dance education.
**Additional Required Materials for ALL Outstanding Leadership awards:**
Two letters of support (Recommendation Letters)
- The letters can be from an NDEO member or professional outside the organization who can speak to the impact of the nominee's work at the local, state, regional, national, and/or international level.

**Additional Required Materials for Outstanding Dance Education Researcher:**
Two letters of support (Recommendation Letters)
- The letters can be from an NDEO member or professional outside the organization who can speak to the impact of the nominee’s work on a national or international level.

A 400-word Research Statement (written by the nominee)

**Two research work samples:**
- If the nominee's work is primarily scholarly, please submit/upload two scholarly samples less than 20 pages each.
- If the nominee’s work is primarily creative, please submit URL web links of two creative samples less than 20 minutes each.
- If the nominee works in both areas, please submit one scholarly and one creative sample.

**Evaluation criteria for:**

**Lifetime Achievement (Living & Posthumous)**
Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to a dance educator for exemplary leadership, research, scholarship and/or artistry, and philanthropy or service to dance education. The honoree will have contributed to the field of dance education at the national and/or international levels for a period of at least fifteen (15) years. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious award the organization confers.
- Impact and contributions of lifetime achievements to the field of dance education.
- Advocacy for the field of dance and dance in education at the national and/or international level.
- Innovativeness of contributions to the arts and dance education.
- Recognition by peers as an influential figure in the dance or dance education communities.

**Outstanding Leadership (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Higher Education, K-12, and Independent Sector)**
One dance educator will be chosen who has innovative practices and contributed professional service at the local, state, regional, national and/or international level for a period of at least seven years.
- Innovation of ideas that promote growth in the field of dance education.
- Evidence of implementing programs and/or services to the field that merit national attention and acclaim.
• Evidence of sustained leadership at the national level.
• Evidence of commitment to developing future leaders.
• Active involvement in endeavors that promote dance education on a major scale.
• Impact and sustainability of proposed ideas/programs implemented.

**Outstanding Dance Educator PK-12 (Emerging & Established)**
The dance educator nominated for this award should be employed in a dance education position and be certified or have equivalent credentials appropriate to the teaching environment. The recipient of this award will have an established record of teaching dance as an artistic discipline and ongoing professional development. Additionally, the recipient will inspire and motivate their students and have an impact on their local school community.

• Demonstrated ability to articulate and communicate their philosophy of dance education.
• Documented promotion of standards-based dance education or documented compliance with the standards /criteria that reflect the educator’s environment.
• Demonstrated ability to encourage students to examine the world through an artistic lens.
• Demonstrated strength in facilitating creating, performing, and responding to dance as art.
• Demonstrated ability to communicate important life skills embodied in dance (arts) education.
• Evidence of developing, supporting, implementing, and/or promoting dance and dance education in their community.
• Demonstrated evidence that teaching supports abundant student-centered classroom experiences, experiential work and holistic, authentic approaches to teaching dance.
• Evidence of student opportunity for expression, reflective practice, and engagement in collaboration within a democratic environment that is developmentally appropriate and challenging.

**Outstanding Dance Education Researcher**
This award is granted to a dance educator who has contributed to the field of dance education through creative and/or scholarly research for at least seven years.

• Innovation of ideas that promote the advancement of scholarship and/or creative activity within dance education.
• Evidence of national attention and acclaim.
• Evidence of scholarship and/or creative activity at the national level.
• Evidence of commitment to developing future scholars and/or artists.
• Active involvement in endeavors that promote scholarship and/or creative activity on a major scale.
• Impact and sustainability of scholarship and/or creative activity.

**Awards Committees Composition:**

• *Lifetime Achievement:* Director of Awards, Advisory Director or Policy Board Member
• *Outstanding Leadership* and *Outstanding Dance Educator:* Awards Committee, led by Director for Awards (Advisory Board position)
• *Outstanding Dance Education Researcher:* Director of Awards, the Advisory Director of Research, the Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Dance Education*, and an Advisory Director
or Policy Board Member

Note: Given the expertise and composition of the selection committees, in the possibility that a committee member may be nominated for an award that their committee selects, the committee member will recuse themselves from that year's selection process. The Director of Awards may appoint a replacement member if needed. The incumbent Director of Awards is not eligible for nomination.

*BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Pronounced “bye-pock,” this is a term specific to the United States, intended to center the experiences of Black and Indigenous groups and demonstrate solidarity between communities of color.