



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

March 2, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate

**SUBJECT:** Discussion Regarding NASBE Award Nominations

The State Board of Education has been asked by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to submit nominations for the 2009 Policy Leader of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Friend of Education Award.

The communication from NASBE is attached. Please note that nominations for the awards are due April 30, 2009.

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# MEMO

TO: NASBE State Board Chairs, Members, and Executive Directors  
FROM: Marsha McMullin, Director of Special Projects  
RE: **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – NASBE 2009 AWARDS**  
DATE: February 18, 2009

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS

As you know, each year the National Association of State Boards of Education presents three awards to people who have distinguished themselves in the field of education. The awards will be presented at our 2009 Annual Conference to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 15-17. *Nominations forms for these three prestigious awards are being mailed to your state board chairman and executive director.*

The ***Policy Leader of the Year Award*** provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions made by policymakers and education leaders who have had an impact on education at a **national** level. This award underscores the vital role that creative, committed, and enduring leadership plays in improving and sustaining our education system. *For this award, we seek to consider nominees (other than members of state boards of education) who have specifically had an impact on education policy and the education system, either in their role as national policymakers and administrators or as citizens who have contributed to the improvement of education through such venues as national commissions, task forces, or other significant boards and organizations.* Past winners include Senator Johnny Isakson, Congressman Ralph Regula, Education Secretary Richard Riley, several governors, Congressman Bill Goodling, former First Lady Barbara Bush, author Jonathan Kozol, Jim Henson, and last year's winner, former Governor (and now Senator) Mark Warner from Virginia.

The ***Distinguished Service Award*** is presented to recognize up to three state board members for exceptional service and leadership rendered on behalf of education. Recipients exemplify personal and professional dedication to improving public education in their states. *For this award, we seek nominees who are current or recently retired state board members whose past or current efforts on behalf of education are deemed to be of outstanding benefit to the quality of American education and the shaping of its future.*

The ***Friend of Education Award*** is given to recognize citizens or organizations whose primary work may be outside the realm of education policy and education systems, but whose contributions to education are significant and enduring. *For this award, we are looking for non-traditional nominees, such as individuals from the fields of business, the arts, entertainment or sports.* Previous winners include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Milken Foundation, Claiborne Deming (AR), Security Benefit of Topeka, Kansas, Selby Wellman (WV), James Orr (ME), Chad Wick (OH), and Robert Marshall (MD).

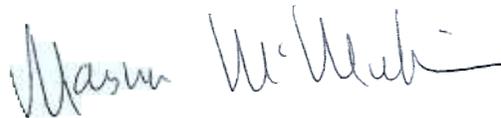
All members in good standing of NASBE are encouraged to submit nominations for review by the Award Selection Committees. Nominations may come from a state board or from an individual member of a board. It is important that the winners of these prestigious awards be present to accept them at the Annual Conference in the Nation's Capital so we ask that you carefully consider who you would like to nominate and be willing to actively encourage your nominee to attend if he or she is chosen.

Please complete and mail or fax the appropriate nomination form, a letter of endorsement, and the completed questions **by April 30, 2009** to the address listed below. No other materials are needed, as only the Nomination Form, endorsement letter, and questions will be submitted for review. These forms have been provided to your State Board Chair and Executive Director; feel free to contact me for more forms, if needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me ([marsham@nasbe.org](mailto:marsham@nasbe.org)) or 703/684-4000, ext. 1116, if you have any questions regarding either the Board of Directors or Awards nominations process. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at upcoming NASBE meetings and conferences.

Before March 2, 2009, please use our current address:  
National Association of State Boards of Education  
277 S. Washington Street, Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22314

After March 2, 2009, please use:  
National Association of State Boards of Education  
2121 Crystal Drive, Suite 350  
Arlington, VA 22202

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marsham McKeeth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.