***Elementary, Middle School, High School Teacher of the Year Award***

**General Criteria**

Educators who meet the eligibility requirements listed below and exemplify the criteria for these awards are encouraged to apply for the appropriate NJAHPERD Teacher of the Year Award.

* NJAHPERD membership for a minimum of three (3) current and consecutive years. Other state SHAPE/AHPERD, or SHAPE America membership is accepted towards the three (3) current and consecutive years; it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide this documentation at the time of application portfolio submission.
* Minimum five (5) years teaching experience in grade level/discipline.
* Degree and certification in teaching.
* Full-time teaching position at time of application portfolio submission & selection.
* Conducts a quality program as reflected in NJ Student Learning Standards and SHAPE America Standards for K-12 programs. Higher Education candidates showing evidence of supporting future professionals as in PETE (physical education teacher education) will be given strong consideration.
* Utilizes various teaching methodologies and plans innovative learning experiences to meet the needs of all students.
* Serves as a positive role model epitomizing personal health and fitness, enjoyment of activity, sportsmanship, and sensitivity to the needs of students.
* Participates in recent professional development opportunities.
* Provides service to the profession through leadership, presentations, and/or written publications.
* Minimum of 50% of total job responsibilities in teaching one of the following: Adapted Physical Education, Physical Education, Dance Education, School Health Education (Driver Education teachers please refer to Driver Education General Criteria for requirements.)
* Two letters of recommendation must be included with the application portfolio. Letters should be directly related to the awards criteria listed for each award. One letter is to be written by a supervisor/administrator and one letter by a fellow teacher. Letters of recommendation must be dated, the author’s position listed and written on school/district letterhead.

**Specific Award Criteria**

Below are the five (5) award criteria. Summarize your relevant qualifications for each criterion on no more than one page of text for each.

The applicant must be a teacher who:

1. conducts an appropriate physical education program as reflected in the students’ individualized education programs and generally accepted standards of practice for physical education.
2. utilizes various teaching methodologies and plans innovative learning experiences to meet the needs of all students.
3. serves as a positive role model epitomizing personal health and fitness, enjoyment of activity, and sensitivity to the physical and emotional needs of all students.
4. participates in recent professional development opportunities.
5. provides service to the profession through advocacy, consultation, in-service training presentations and/or active membership in related professional organizations.

**Directions for Submission of Application**

The online application and all supporting materials must be submitted to NJAHPERD via e-mail in two (2) files. These two (2) files include:

1. PDF of supporting materials - verification of teaching assignment, and letters of recommendation
2. award criteria essays, online application, and publicity form
3. Video – Meet and Greet Video – One (1) minute video introducing yourself, including your name, job description, years of experience, and personal teaching philosophy.

*Please send your completed portfolio to the NJAHPERD Executive Director: executive\_director@shapenj.org.*

*Incomplete portfolios or portfolios received after the deadline will not be considered.*

**Required Application Materials**

* Completed online application.
* Verification of teaching assignment form
* Publicity form
* Letters of recommendation
* Award criteria essays
* Meet and Greet Video – One (1) minute.
* Requested documentation.

**Award Criteria Essay Format**

When completing the award criteria please use the following format:

* **Bold** the specific criteria as a heading then summarize your qualifications in paragraph form below the bolded criteria heading (see example below).
* Responses to each criteria answer should be in one word document. Please do NOT send each criterion answer in a separate word document.
* **EXAMPLE** format for Award Criteria essay:
  + Conducts an appropriate physical education program as reflected in the students' individualized education programs and generally accepted standards or practice for physical education.
* Begin to write your answer to criteria 1 below the bolded heading in regular font.

**Nomination and Application Due Dates**

* Nomination due date – October 15th
* Application Portfolio due date – November 15th
* Award winners will be notified by February 1st.