***Theresa Purcell Cone Dance Education 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, regional, or national professional memberships are 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 submission materials. Letters should be directly related to the award criteria listed for the 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.

*It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the required documentation at the time of submission.*

**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. (5 award criterion combined in one PDF file).

The applicant must be a teacher who:

1. teaches creatively and utilizes various methodologies.
2. presents a balanced and sequential curriculum based on the developmental, social, and psychological needs of the students.
3. emphasizes the significance of dance as an integral cultural component that enables students to understand their own cultural heritage as well as that of others.
4. promotes an understanding of dance as a creative art through the discussion of aesthetics of students' own works and/or the works of others.
5. shows professional commitment through membership and active participation in local, state, regional, and/or national dance organizations.

**Directions for Submission of Materials**

All supporting materials must be submitted to NJAHPERD via e-mail in three (3) files. These three (3) files include:

1. PDF of supporting materials - verification of teaching assignment, and letters of recommendation
2. PDF of Award Criteria Responses to the above 5 criteria.
3. Headshot and Bio (100 words or less – to be read at the awards ceremony if selected)

*Please send your completed portfolio to the NJAHPERD Executive Director: njahperdexecutivedirector@gmail.com.*

**Required Submission Materials**

* Verification of Teaching Assignment
* Two Letters of Recommendation
* Award Criteria Responses
* Headshot and Bio

***Incomplete submission received after the deadline will not be considered.***

**Award Criteria Response 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 bold criteria heading (see example below).
* Responses to each criteria answer should be in one pdf document. Please do NOT send each criterion answer in a separate pdf document.
* **EXAMPLE** format for Award Criteria Response:
	+ **Criteria 3: emphasizes the significance of dance as an integral cultural component that enables students to understand their own cultural heritage as well as that of others.**
* Begin to write your answer to criteria 1 below the bold heading in regular font.

**Nomination and Application Due Dates**

* Nomination due date – October 15th
* Required submission materials due date – November 30th
* Award recipients will be notified by December 15th