



## The Griffin Award for Teacher of Excellence 2016

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*The Griffin Award for Teacher of Excellence* recognizes outstanding teachers in social studies, art, and world history. Launched in 2015, three winners will be selected from middle school level (grades 6-8), high school level (grades 9-12), and higher education/college level from the states of Illinois and Indiana. The winners will be selected by nominations — self or others. Each winner will be awarded a named plaque, a complimentary Educator Pass (a teacher membership) for a year, and an invitation to become a member of Oriental Institute's Teacher Advisory Council for the following school year.

#### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the award, an applicant must have at least one year of teaching experience, and be a current teacher with valid identification of an affiliated school. The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- 1. Use of innovative teaching methods that engage students in the discoveries about ancient Middle Eastern history and culture (such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, and Nubia). Exemplary applications will demonstrate some combination of:**
  - Use interdisciplinary approach in teaching;
  - Innovative or non-conventional use of primary sources;
  - Strong and explicit alignment with national standards, such as the Common Core State Standards, Next Generations Science Standards, National Core Arts Standards;
  - Help students in skill development through the study of history;
  - Adopt active research for students' projects.
- 2. Dedication to recognize students' learning progress and achievements. Exemplary applications will demonstrate:**
  - Providing opportunities for students or helping students present their projects within the community (such as exhibition their art, publishing their writing, organizing an afterschool presentation);
- 3. Dedication to mentoring/coaching other teachers in their professional development. Exemplary applications will demonstrate:**
  - Evidence of peer mentorship at own school or other higher education institute/organization.

## **Nomination Procedure**

There are two ways that teachers may be nominated:

1. Self-nomination
2. Nomination by a peer, parent, principal, or superintendent.

## **Submission Materials**

Nominators must submit the following materials by **February 29, 2016**.

1. A completed cover sheet
2. A resume of the nominee
3. A testimonial as to why this teacher should be considered for this award (500–1,000 words). This essay should discuss:
  - a. the impact of the teacher on a school, a class, or an individual student and his/her/their academic and/or social growth;
  - b. how the teacher demonstrated innovative and interdisciplinary teaching methods in engaging students in ancient Middle Eastern history, art, and culture;
  - c. a description of a lesson or a unit which address creative teaching as defined in the eligibility criteria.
4. One classroom product referenced in the essay (handout, assignment, etc.) to share with the selection committee (2 pages maximum)
5. Two letters of recommendation

**\*\*Please put all materials into ONE PDF file and email them to:  
Carol Ng-He, School & Community Program Manager, at [cnghe@uchicago.edu](mailto:cnghe@uchicago.edu).**

## **Award Process**

The Oriental Institute Department of Public Education and Outreach and the Griffin Award for Teacher of Excellence Selection Committee will select the award winners by March 31, 2016. Awardees and all other nominators will receive the notification via email. Awardees will be invited to bring up to 5 guests for an exclusive dinner reception at the Oriental Institute Director's Office

The winners will be announced in the Oriental Institute educator e-newsletter in April and May 2016.

**NOMINATION COVER SHEET  
THE GRIFFIN AWARD FOR TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE 2016**

Name of Nominee	
Name and Title of the Nominator	
Division (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Level (Grades 6-8) <input type="checkbox"/> High School Level (Grades 9-12) <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education/College Level
Nominee's Home Address	
Relationship with the Nominee	
School Name	
School Address	
Current Grade(s) Taught	
Current Course(s) Taught	
Email Address (school)	
Email Address (personal)	
Telephone	
Number of Years of Teaching	

The following materials should be submitted by **February 29, 2016** to [cnghe@uchicago.edu](mailto:cnghe@uchicago.edu) in **ONE** PDF file.

- ✓ A completed cover sheet
- ✓ A resume of the nominee
- ✓ A testimonial as to why this teacher should be considered for this award (500–1,000 words). This essay should discuss:
  - the impact of the teacher on a school, a class, or an individual student and his/her/their academic and/or social growth;
  - how the teacher demonstrated innovative and interdisciplinary teaching methods in engaging students in ancient Middle Eastern history, art, and culture;
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