 Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education 2019

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis is excited to announce that nominations for the 2019 Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education are now open. This national program recognizes outstanding individuals who are making a difference in communities throughout North America through their work in the field of Jewish education. Since the program’s start in 2000, hundreds of Jewish educators in a variety of Jewish educational settings have been celebrated for their exceptional teaching. The Indianapolis Jewish community is pleased that we are continuing to participate in this prestigious program and that our community’s finest teachers will be among those recognized on a national level.

Each Jewish educational organization that is part of the JEdI (Jewish Educators of Indy) Council is encouraged to nominate an educator. The head of school or program director in each organization will oversee the nomination process. In order to be eligible to be nominated, a candidate must currently be serving in a Jewish educational role in the greater Indianapolis Jewish community. Eligible Jewish educational settings include preschools, community school programs, congregational supplementary schools, day schools, youth groups, Jewish camps, adult education, and any educational setting supported by organizations represented within the JEdI Council.

In order to nominate a candidate, the organization’s educational leader must submit a nomination form by **Friday, March 29**. In addition to the nomination form, organizations can submit up to two letters of support from those who have been directly impacted by the educator, including parents, students, and colleagues. Both the application and letters of support should be sent to the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Attn: Nina Price, 6705 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260 or sent electronically to nprice@jfgi.org. From among all nominees up to five finalists will be selected by Friday, April 12. Finalists will be asked to submit a lesson plan or statement demonstrating the innovative ways in which they teach no later than Wednesday, May 1. The winner of this year’s award will be announced at the JFGI Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, and further honored at a community Tikkun Leil Shavuot celebration on Saturday, June 8.

Since this year’s Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education winner will be honored as part of our community’s Shavuot celebration, we are seeking nominees who excel in innovative ways of bringing Torah and Jewish stories to life. Other characteristics upon which the selection committee will be basing their decision include:

* Commitment to one’s own professional Jewish educational development
* Support and strengthening of meaningful Jewish identity for students
* Positive rapport with students
* Use of a variety of resources and teaching modalities to enrich lessons
* Jewish values in teaching and interactions
* Collaboration and good communication with students, parents, administrators, and other teachers
* Demonstrated commitment to the Indianapolis Jewish community.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Nina Price, JFGI Director of Jewish Education Initiatives, at 317-715-6993 or nprice@jfgi.org. The winner will receive a monetary award of $1000 and up to an additional $500 toward qualified future professional development. Thank you in advance for taking the time to nominate an exemplary educator from your organization and support our community’s efforts to strengthen Jewish education by honoring and promoting excellence in teaching.

*In order to nominate a teacher from your learning setting for the Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, please fill out the application in its entirety. You are also encouraged to submit up to two letters of support from members of your learning community, including lay leaders, parents, and students. No supplementary materials beyond the application and indicated letters of support will be accepted. The completed application is due by* ***3pm on Friday, March 29****, in order for your organization’s nominee to be considered for the award.*

Nominator’s Information

Name of Nominating Professional: Click or tap here to enter text.

Organizational Affiliation: Click or tap here to enter text.

Organization Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Work Phone: Click or tap here to enter text. E-Mail Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Candidate Information

Name of Educator: Click or tap here to enter text.

Title/Educational Role: Click or tap here to enter text.

Number of Years Working at the Nominating Organization: Click or tap here to enter text.

Work/Cell Phone: Click or tap here to enter text. Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Letters of Support

Please indicate the names of up to two writers from whom letters of support will be received as part of the award application (parents, students, or colleagues): Click or tap here to enter text.

Candidate’s General Qualifications

Please summarize the special skills and qualifications of the candidate that you have observed that exemplify the candidate’s suitability for this award.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Example of the Candidate’s Exemplary Work

Please share an anecdote or example of how the candidate goes above and beyond expectations to positively impact the learning setting in which s/he works and the overall Indianapolis Jewish community.

Click or tap here to enter text.

The Candidate’s Approach to Engaging Learners

Please describe the how the candidate engages learners and meets their individual needs. What types of interactions with learners would one see if observing the candidate in action?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Innovative Ways of Bringing Torah and Jewish Stories to Life

In connection with this year’s winner being honored on Shavuot, the holiday that celebrates receiving Torah, our community has decided to highlight the work of teachers who have developed innovative ways of bringing Torah and Jewish stories to life. Please share an example of how your nominee has worked to support this central Jewish educational goal.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Comments

Please feel free to share anything else that the committee should know about the candidate and take into consideration when reviewing this application that was not covered in earlier responses.

Click or tap here to enter text.