



BEAUMONT FOUNDATION
of America



Gilbert I. “Buddy” Low Excellence in Education Award

Application Available: October 27, 2023

Application Deadline: January 26, 2024

Nominee Application Packet

www.bmtfoundation.com





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The Gilbert I. “Buddy” Low Excellence in Education Award

Introduction

As part of the Beaumont Foundation’s commitment to supporting education, the **Gilbert I. “Buddy” Low Excellence in Education Award** was created to celebrate and recognize superior contributions of teachers whose leadership and dedication inspire a spirit of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities. **Three teachers are selected annually to receive this prestigious Award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the education system in East Texas.** Each award recipient will be honored at an awards gala and receive a crystal obelisk, a portrait and **\$10,000**.

Eligibility

- Gilbert I. “Buddy” Low Excellence in Education candidates must:
 - Have completed five years teaching experience.
 - Be a full-time classroom teacher at a public or non-public school in Angelina, Sabine or San Augustine County whose responsibility is the direct instruction of students.
 - Complete the Foundation’s application packet by the stated deadline.
- Gilbert I. “Buddy” Low Excellence in Education candidates should exemplify the highest standards and practices of the teaching profession.

These qualities include but are not limited to:

 - Dedication, knowledge, and skill.
 - The expertise to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities.
 - A demonstrated distinguished classroom practice.
 - Professionalism and collegiality.
 - High standards for themselves and their students.
 - The ability to create a classroom environment conducive to learning.
 - Commitment to students and their learning.
 - The respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues.
 - Contribution to the wider school community.

Nomination Process

- Schools or individuals are invited to nominate teachers; however, a teacher may not self-nominate. Also, nominations cannot be made by immediate family.
- Nominations must include specific, detailed information regarding the nominee. Additionally, it must include two typed pages of supplementary materials. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted. Previous winners are not eligible for nomination. All nominations must use the approved nomination form.

Application Process

- All nominees must complete an application packet if they are interested in participating.

Selection Process

- Each participating school will select a 5-person nominating committee to receive campus nominations. Only students and teachers will serve on the nominating committee at each campus. Committee membership at Middle and High School campuses must have two teachers and three students. All elementary campuses must have student representation. The student(s) may be former student(s) from the elementary campus but must be a current student(s) in the district.
- Each school’s nominating committee can select a campus nominee for the Gilbert I. “Buddy” Low Excellence in Education award and submit required materials to the Foundation per the Campus Checklist. Schools that have more than 50 teachers may submit two (2) nominations and schools that have more than 100 teachers may submit three (3) nominations.
- Completed Nomination/Application Packets will be submitted to the Foundation for final selection of the Excellence in Education Award Winners.



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Nomination & Application Instructions

The Nomination and Application packet must be filled out in its entirety for a nominee to be considered for the award.

Nomination Instructions

1. In addition to the nominating person, three (3) people endorsing the nominee must include their endorsement signature. Please state if any are related to the nominee (no immediate family). Persons endorsing this nominee should be very familiar with the nominee. Their signature indicates their willingness to be interviewed either by phone or in person, if necessary.

You Must Also Include the Following Supporting Materials:

2. Attach **one page** explaining why you believe your nominee deserves this award. What unique contributions has the nominee made, and how does the nominee exemplify excellence by having a direct positive impact on the lives and education of children? Address the teacher’s dedication and passion for students and teaching. Be sure to give specific examples.

3. Attach **two pages** to support your nomination. These supplementary materials might include comments, articles, press releases, commendation letters or testimonial letters from individuals who have been directly influenced by the nominee.

4. Please paperclip these **three pages** (single-sided, typed) to your Nomination Form. Please, no staples.

NOTE: A fully completed Nomination section should consist of 5 pages total

Application Instructions

1. Complete an Award Application (included at the end of this application packet).

2. Attach a current (wallet size) photograph (that will not be returned) to copy paper.

3. Provide a copy of your current resume (*three-page max*).

4. Favorite Quote (*one page*)

5. Professional Question (*one-page essay*): *Why did you become a teacher and what does teaching mean to you?*

6. Letters of Support. Include one letter of support from each of the following:

- A principal or administrator
- A current or former student
- A current or former parent of a student
- A current or former teaching colleague

Letters should be dated during the current year and provide the writer’s contact information.

Please write your name at the top of each letter of support and submit the letters with your completed application in a large envelope. Please, no staples, binders, or notebooks.

*A nominated teacher must complete an application packet if they are interested in participating.

Applications that are forwarded to the Beaumont Foundation for consideration must be on forms that are included in this packet and comply with all guidelines described here or they will not be considered.

NOTE: A fully completed Nomination/Application packet should consist of 12 to 13 pages total



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Timeline

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Friday, October 27, 2023: | Nomination/Application Packet available to download on website |
| Friday, January 26, 2024: | Nomination/Application Packet due by 5:00 PM in the Beaumont Foundation office |
| March 2024: | Gilbert I. "Buddy" Low Excellence in Education Award Winners Announced |
| Tuesday, May 21, 2024: | Awards Banquet Honoring the Gilbert I. "Buddy" Low Excellence in Education Award Winners |

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I applied last year and was not selected. Can I reapply?

A: Yes. Some teachers apply several times before being selected because there are so many exceptional teachers. Nominees are encouraged to retain a copy of their original packet and re-submit an updated Nomination/Application packet.

Q: Can my resume be more than one page in length?

A: Yes, resumes can be more than one page in length but no more than three (3) pages long. We want to read about your education, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and any awards you've won.

Q: Is there any flexibility in the application deadline?

A: Due to the selection process, we cannot extend the application deadline. Past applicants tell us the biggest challenge is getting the Letters of Support back in time. Please start with these first, and get them back before completing the application.

Q: When will I hear if I have been selected?

A: Honoree selection will be posted on the website during the month of March. Also, winners will be notified individually via the email address they provide on the Application.



The Gilbert I. "Buddy" Low Excellence in Education Award Nomination Form

Section 1 – Category

Category of Nomination (check one): Elementary Middle School High School

Section 2 – School and District Information

Full Name of School: _____
Principal's Name: _____ Phone: _____
School District: _____ Phone: _____
Superintendent's Name: _____

Section 3 – Nominee Information

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Full Name of Campus Nominee: | | | Years of Teaching Experience: | |
| Current Grade(s) & Subject(s) Taught: | | | | |
| Supervisor's Name: | | Supervisor's Email & Phone Number: | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Full Name of Campus Nominee #2 (Only if School has more than 50 teachers): | | | Years of Teaching Experience: | |
| Current Grade(s) & Subject(s) Taught: | | | | |
| Supervisor's Name: | | Supervisor's Email & Phone Number: | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Full Name of Campus Nominee #3 (Only if School has more than 100 teachers): | | | Years of Teaching Experience: | |
| Current Grade(s) & Subject(s) Taught: | | | | |
| Supervisor's Name: | | Supervisor's Email & Phone Number: | | |

Section 4 – Nominating Person & Endorsements*

Nominating Person

Name: _____
 Title/Position: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Primary Phone: _____
 Signature: _____

Your relation to the nominee:

- Teacher/Staff/Administrator
- Parent of Student
- Current or Former Student
- Other _____

1. Endorsement

Name: _____
 Title/Position: _____
 Primary Phone: _____
 Signature: _____

2. Endorsement

Name: _____
 Title/Position: _____
 Primary Phone: _____
 Signature: _____

3. Endorsement

Name: _____
 Title/Position: _____
 Primary Phone: _____
 Signature: _____

How did you hear about the Low Excellence in Education Award?

- School Newspaper Internet Event Other _____

Section 5 – Committee Information

Each participating school must select a 5-person nominating committee to receive campus nominations. Only students and teachers are eligible to serve on the nominating committee at each campus. Committee membership at Middle and High School campuses must have two teachers and three students. All elementary campuses must have student representation. The student(s) may be former student(s) from the elementary campus but must be a current student(s) in the district.

| | Name of Committee Member | Role (Teacher or Student) |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |

Section 6 – Certification and Signature

I certify that the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by any authorized official of the Beaumont Foundation, I agree to give documentation for information given on this form.

Signature of Principal _____ Date _____

** Your signature indicates your endorsement of this nomination and your willingness to be interviewed by phone, if necessary.*



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Section 1 – Nominee Information

Nominee's Name: _____
(Dr., Mr. Mrs. Ms.) First MI Last

Name to be used in writing (certificates, press releases, etc.):

Mailing Address:

Street City State Zip

Primary Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Section 2 – School/District Information

Full Name of School: _____ Phone: (____) _____

School Mailing Address:

Street City State Zip

Principal's Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Principal's Email: _____

Latest TEA School Accountability Rating: _____ Current School Enrollment: _____ Average Class Size: _____

Demographic breakdown of student population (percent): Percent Economically Disadvantaged: _____
____ African American ____ Hispanic ____ White ____ Native American ____ Asian/Pacific

Most Current STAAR passage rates: Reading _____ English/LA _____ Science _____
Writing _____ Mathematics _____ Social Studies _____ All Tests _____

School District: _____

Superintendent's Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Superintendent's Email: _____

District Mailing Address:

Street City State Zip

Latest TEA District Accountability Rating: _____ District Classification: Urban Suburban Rural

Section 3 – Nominee Information

Current grade level(s) & subject(s) taught:

Do you have leadership responsibilities in your school? Examples: Lead teacher or department head, serve on district-wide or state-wide committees, lead in-service activities, etc.

List all teaching related Honors and Awards you have received:

What school activities are you involved in? Examples: Club or UIL sponsor, afterschool tutoring program, weekend, or summer backpack program, etc.

List your community involvement. Examples: Volunteering for events that help the underserved, participating in fundraisers for special causes, serving at soup kitchens, community cleanups, etc.

Do you have any published works? Examples: Curriculum, articles, books, etc.

Section 4 – CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURES

I certify that the information on this form, together with information contained in any sheets attached, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by any authorized official of the Beaumont Foundation, I agree to give documentation for information given on this form. I realize that failure to comply with a request for additional information may prevent the nominee from receiving this award. I agree to participate in any interviews that may be conducted by the Beaumont Foundation prior to selection. I also grant permission to the Beaumont Foundation to use my photograph and/or selected quotes on their website and in future publications.

Signature of Nominee: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Principal: _____ Date: _____



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Campus Checklist

Instructions:

*After the campus nominating committee has completed their selection(s), return the following items by **Friday, January 26, 2024**, to:*

*Beaumont Foundation
Attn: Award Committee
470 Orleans, 1st Floor
Beaumont, Texas 77701*

NOMINEE/APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

- FULLY COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM.
- ONE PAGE FROM THE NOMINATING PERSON EXPLAINING WHY THE NOMINEE DESERVES THIS AWARD.
- TWO PAGES OF SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS TO SUPPORT THE NOMINATION.
- FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM.
- A CURRENT, WALLET SIZE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NOMINEE ON 8 X 11 COPY PAPER.
- THE NOMINEE’S CURRENT RESUME (*NOT MORE THAN THREE PAGES*).
- THE NOMINEE’S FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO (*ONE PAGE*).
- THE NOMINEE’S ESSAY (*ONE PAGE*).
- FOUR (4) LETTERS OF SUPPORT. INCLUDE ONE (1) LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING: PRINCIPAL OR ADMINISTRATOR; CURRENT OR FORMER STUDENT; CURRENT OR FORMER PARENT OF A STUDENT; AND A CURRENT OR FORMER TEACHER COLLEAGUE. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AT THE TOP OF EACH LETTER OF SUPPORT.
- PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE COPIES OF THE PACKET. NONE OF THE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE PHOTO, WILL BE RETURNED.
- SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED PACKET IN A LARGE ENVELOPE. PLEASE, NO BINDERS, FOLDERS OR NOTEBOOKS.
- DO NOT MAIL YOUR LETTERS OF SUPPORT SEPARATELY. THIS MAY DISQUALIFY YOU.