



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

The 2023 Teacher of Courage and Conscience Award

Purpose:

As fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic continues to challenge educational systems and the politicization of education amplifies, with politicians questioning curricular decisions, school policies, and even extracurricular programs and clubs, it has never felt more important to honor the work of exemplary educators, who are persisting in the profession and embracing the challenges of the day with courage and conviction. The Villanova Department of Education and Counseling is therefore pleased to release our call for our annual Teachers of Courage and Conscience Award.

This award honors educators who are creatively envisioning and bravely enacting alternatives to the rote learning experiences that have become the standard fare in far too many classrooms; educators who are teaching their students not just the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college or careers, but about the pressing issues of our time and the responsibilities of democratic citizenship; and educators who are igniting students' curiosity, encouraging them to become engaged civic actors, and inspiring them to lead lives that matter. Recipients of the award are well-respected by their colleagues, beloved by their students, and recognized as teacher activists or agents of change in their local community. Through this award and the attendant ceremony, our Department strives to celebrate and connect these teacher leaders with one another.

Qualifications

Candidates must be K-12 public or private school teachers engaged in the following activities:

- *work to improve access to high-quality education for those students who are currently least well-served in our region;
- *advocate for the education profession;
- *encourage student curiosity and love of learning, use effective teaching strategies, and engage students in meaningful problem-solving, knowledge-production, or artistic work;
- *embody and put into practice the values of Villanova University: Veritas, Unitas, Caritas.

Nomination and Submission Guidelines

Nominations can be made by filling out [this](#) form. You will be asked to include the candidate's name, school, and contact information, as well as your contact information and a brief overview of your reasons for recommending this candidate. Submissions are due by April 14th, 2023.

Timeline

The deadline for nominations is **April 14, 2023**. A committee including former award recipients, academics, educators, and administrators from K-12 schools in the Southeastern PA region will meet to evaluate submissions. Finalists will be announced in early May. These finalists will be presented with the award and a token of our appreciation, at an event on May 9th.