

Borislow

INSURANCE

Commitment to Excellence Award

Presented by Borislow Insurance

Purpose of the Award

The Commitment to Excellence Award recognizes and honors the dedication, innovation, and achievements of educators, administrators, and staff at Independent Schools. This award is designed to celebrate those who significantly enhance the quality of education and positively impact the student experience through their exemplary contributions.

Eligibility

Educators, administrators, and staff currently employed at Independent Schools with students of any grade level from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Nominees must demonstrate significant influence on educational outcomes, innovative teaching methods, effective administrative strategies, or leadership in community engagement. Nominees and nominators are not required to have any affiliation with Borislow Insurance.

Award Benefits

Professional Development Award: \$2,500 intended to be used for continuing education, conference attendance, or other approved professional growth activities.

Recognition: Award recipients will receive a commemorative plaque and be featured in local press releases and media distributions.

Award Process and Criteria

Nomination: Please visit borislow.com/commitment-to-excellence to access the nomination form and submission details. Nominations may be made by current colleagues from the same Independent School and will be assessed based on a detailed scoring rubric in the following areas: **Impact on Education, Innovation, Leadership, and Community Involvement.**

Important Dates

Nominations Open: August 12, 2024

Nominations Close: Sept. 30, 2024

Review Period: Oct. 1 – Oct. 31, 2024

Award Ceremony: TBD

Contact Information

For further information, detailed guidelines, or specific inquiries please use the contact form available on borislow.com/commitment-to-excellence

Join Us

Celebrate dedication, acknowledge innovation, and inspire educational excellence by recognizing those who make a difference. Nominate an outstanding individual today!

Commitment to Excellence Award

Presented by Borislow Insurance

Borislow Insurance is celebrating the enduring spirit of educators, administrators, and education professionals who consistently go above and beyond to enhance the quality of education and its impact on the overall student experience.

The Commitment to Excellence Award recognizes individuals for their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of education. This award is meant to demonstrate our appreciation for those who consistently strive to raise educational standards, innovate teaching practices, and/or enhance the learning experience for students. Honorees will receive a one-time award in the amount of \$2,500 intended to be used for professional development, a press release, and more.

Eligibility Criteria

Professional Status

This award is open exclusively to educators, administrators, and staff currently employed at Independent Schools. This includes full-time and part-time positions and any staff members.

Role and Impact

Nominees must play a pivotal role in shaping educational outcomes/experiences at their Independent School. This can involve direct classroom teaching, curriculum development/oversight, school management, or extracurricular leadership. The key is a clear demonstration of significant positive impact on the school's educational culture and student experience.

Demonstration of Excellence

Candidates should show a strong record of promoting educational excellence and must play a pivotal role in shaping educational outcomes/experiences at their Independent School. This includes pioneering innovative teaching methods, implementing effective administrative strategies, or leading community engagement efforts that enrich the school's environment and student learning experiences. Contributions should be measurable and have a lasting impact on the school community in both educational culture and student achievement.

Nomination Eligibility

Nominations can be made by current colleagues working with the nominee at their current Independent School. Nominators must provide detailed documentation and examples of the nominee's contributions, such as testimonials, project descriptions, and outcomes that underscore the nominee's dedication and success in enhancing educational quality. Nominees and nominators are not required to have any affiliation with Borislow Insurance.

Additional Considerations

While all eligible candidates are considered, special preference is given to those who extend their influence beyond traditional roles. This could include initiating community partnerships, leading professional development for peers, or driving policy changes that benefit the broader Independent School sector. Other examples may include initiatives to bring healthier dining options to the school, or improved logistics at large events such as graduation.

Timeline

Nominations open: August 12, 2024

Nominations close: September 30, 2024

Review period: October 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024

Award ceremony: TBD

Nomination and Evaluation

Nomination Review

All nominations received by the deadline may undergo an initial screening to verify eligibility based on the outlined criteria. This includes confirming employment status, role, and the impact they have had at their school.

Evaluation Committee

A panel comprised of experienced educators, administrators from various Independent Schools, and select award winners will serve as the evaluation committee. The committee will also include executive leadership from Borislow Insurance (award sponsor) to ensure a diverse range of perspectives.

Criteria-Based Scoring

Each nomination will be scored against a detailed rubric that aligns with the award criteria: impact on education, innovation, leadership, and community involvement. The rubric allows for objective measurement of each nominee's contributions and achievements.

Deliberation and Selection

The evaluation committee will meet to discuss the top-scoring nominees. This deliberation session aims to ensure that the selection is not only based on scores but also considers qualitative factors such as the nominee's leadership qualities and personal dedication to education and the overall Independent School experience.

Finalist Interviews

In some cases, the committee may conduct interviews with finalists to better understand their impact and vision for the future of education in Independent Schools. This step is designed to make the selection process more robust and comprehensive.

Selection of Winner(s)

The winner(s) of the award will be selected based on the combination of their rubric scores and the insights gained during the committee deliberations and any individual interviews held. The selection will be made by a consensus or majority vote among the committee members.

Notification and Announcement

After confirming all final eligibility, including verification of being in good standing at their current school, winners will be notified confidentially before a public announcement is made. The official announcement will include a detailed profile of the winner(s) highlighting their contributions and the reasons for their selection.

Confidentiality

The Commitment to Excellence Award process is carried out with the highest level of confidentiality and discretion to ensure fairness and integrity of the award. To respect the privacy and impartiality of the evaluation process, we strictly prohibit inquiries about the deliberations, status of nominations, and discussions pertaining to nominees during the review and selection phases. Once the winners are publicly announced, we encourage open celebration and discussion of their achievements.

Award Benefits

Professional Development Award

The Commitment to Excellence Award will grant up to three (3) one-time awards annually. Each award is valued at \$2,500 and is designed to support the professional and personal growth of the recipients. It is intended to be used for a variety of

expenses such as continuing education courses, attendance at relevant conferences, purchasing educational materials, or funding specialized training.

Payment Method

The award will be disbursed in a lump sum to the honoree's designated account following acceptance of the award.

Tax Implications

The award may be considered taxable income, depending on tax laws. Honorees are responsible for reporting the award as income on their tax returns. It is recommended that honorees consult with a tax professional to understand specific tax liabilities and planning related to the receipt of the award. Honorees will receive a Form 1099 for the award amount, which will be provided for tax reporting purposes.

Additional Recognition

Beyond the award, honorees will be publicly recognized through a press release distributed to relevant educational publications and media outlets by Borislow Insurance. A commemorative plaque will also be awarded, symbolizing their dedication to excellence in education.

Criteria-Based Scoring Rubric

For the Commitment to Excellence Award, the rubric includes detailed criteria across four key areas: Impact on Education, Innovation, Leadership, and Community Involvement. Below is a sample rubric with explanations and sample scoring examples to illustrate potential scenarios:

Impact on Education

Scope of Impact (1-10 Points): Considers the extent of the nominee's influence within their school or beyond. A score of 10 indicates a transformation across the entire educational system; a score of 1 may indicate impact limited to a single classroom.

Example: A nominee who implements a new curriculum adopted by multiple schools scores an 8.

Sustainability (1-10 Points): Evaluates whether the nominee's contributions will have lasting effects. A score of 10 signifies enduring changes; a score of 1 suggests temporary or uncertain outcomes.

Example: A nominee who has developed a mentorship program that has increased retention rates for 5 years scores a 9.

Innovation

Creativity (1-10 Points): Assesses the novelty of the nominee's initiatives. A score of 10 means a groundbreaking approach; a score of 1 might reflect well-known, commonly used methods.

Example: A nominee who has created an original digital teaching tool that improves engagement scores a 10.

Effectiveness (1-10 Points): Looks at how effectively the innovative measures achieved their goals. A score of 10 shows high effectiveness; a score of 1 shows minimal impact.

Example: A nominee whose new assessment method has dramatically improved student learning outcomes scores an 8.

Leadership

Influence (1-10 Points): Gauges the degree to which the nominee has inspired others to improve educational practices. A score of 10 indicates widespread influence; a score of 1 indicates minimal or no influence.

Example: A school principal who has led a successful school reform that other schools seek to model scores a 7.

Vision (1-10 Points): Measures the clarity and impact of the nominee's vision for education. A score of 10 reflects a visionary approach with clear results; a score of 1 shows a lack of clear or impactful vision.

Example: A department head who has articulated and implemented a strategy that turned around the underperforming department scores a 9.

Community Involvement

Engagement (1-10 Points): Assesses the extent and depth of the nominee's community engagement. A score of 10 reflects deep, impactful engagement; a score of 1 indicates minimal or superficial involvement.

Example: A teacher who organizes community workshops and parental involvement sessions scoring an 8.

Contribution (1-10 Points): Evaluates the real benefits brought to the community through the nominee's efforts. A score of 10 indicates significant, measurable benefits; a score of 1 indicates negligible benefits.

Example: A nominee who has established a partnership that provides significant funding and resources to the school scores a 10.

Final Score Calculation

Scores from each category are summed to provide a total score out of 80. The highest possible score (80) represents an exemplary candidate who excels in all categories.

Additional Information

For more details, please submit your question(s) via the contact form on the Commitment to Excellence webpage (borislow.com/commitment-to-excellence), and we will assist with your inquiry.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Commitment to Excellence Award is dedicated to fostering a culture of diversity and inclusivity within the educational community. We firmly believe in the principles of equality and respect for all individuals regardless of their race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic. Our selection process is designed to be free from discrimination, ensuring that every nominee is evaluated solely based on their achievements and contributions to education. We are committed to promoting a diverse pool of candidates and ensuring equal opportunity in all aspects of our award program.

Award Utilization and Award Continuity

The award associated with the Commitment to Excellence Award is intended for specific uses suggested by the award committee, as outlined in the award guidelines. It is intended solely for professional development activities that align with these approved uses. Furthermore, the award is contingent upon the recipient's continued employment in an Independent School. Should a recipient retire or leave their position prior to the award being granted, the award may not be disbursed. If a recipient changes schools, the award may still apply, provided the situation aligns with the initial conditions under which the award was granted. These terms are subject to the discretion of the award organizing committee and are final.

Contingency Plans

Nominee Withdrawal: In the event of a nominee withdrawal, the committee will be notified immediately, and the nomination will be withdrawn from consideration.

Replacement: If the withdrawal occurs before the evaluation process is completed, the committee may consider the next highest-scoring nominee based on available scores at the time of withdrawal.

Changes in Award Funding

Any potential changes to funding will trigger an immediate review by the award committee and sponsors. All affected parties, especially nominated individuals and institutions, will be promptly informed of any changes that could impact award delivery. Adjustments will be made to ensure the continuity of the award, such as modifying the number of awards given or adjusting the award amount, while maintaining the integrity and purpose of the award.

Emergency Situations

In case of significant disruptions (e.g., natural disasters, significant economic changes), a contingency plan will be activated that may include postponing deadlines, altering ceremony plans, or virtual adaptations of events. Flexibility in handling these situations will be crucial, with decisions made in real-time based on the specific circumstances and best practices for safety and compliance.

The organizers of the Commitment to Excellence Award reserve the right to discontinue or alter any aspect of the award program, including the cancellation of the award or modifications to the award, at any time and for any reason. If such changes occur, we will inform all participants and stakeholders as soon as possible. These decisions, made at the discretion of the organizing committee, are final. We commit to handling any such changes with fairness and transparency, ensuring clear communication with all affected parties.

Creating Solutions.
Delivering Outcomes.

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Commitment to Excellence Award - FAQs

What is the Commitment to Excellence Award?

This award, sponsored by Borislow Insurance, recognizes educators, administrators, and staff members at Independent Schools who have significantly enhanced educational quality through dedication and achievement.

Who can be nominated for this award?

Any full-time or part-time educator, administrator, or staff member currently employed at an Independent School with students of any grade level from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

How can someone be nominated?

Nominations can be submitted by colleagues working with the nominee at their current Independent School via the online submission form accessible on the Commitment to Excellence webpage (borislow.com/commitment-to-excellence).

What criteria are used to evaluate nominees?

Nominees are evaluated based on their impact on education, innovative practices, leadership qualities, and community involvement, using a detailed scoring rubric.

What does the award include?

Awardees receive a one-time \$2,500 award intended to be used for their professional development, a commemorative plaque, and public recognition via press release.

How is the award managed?

The award is issued in a one-time lump sum payment directly to the recipient. A Form 1099 will be issued for the award amount to comply with tax regulations.

Are there tax implications for the award?

Yes, the award may be taxable based on tax laws and recipients will receive a Form 1099 for the award amount. Recipients should consult a tax professional regarding all applicable tax obligations.

When are the nomination periods?

Specific dates for nomination opening and closing will be provided on the official award webpage.

How is the winner selected?

After scoring by a diverse evaluation committee, finalists may be interviewed to understand their vision and impact further before final selection.

Where can I find more information?

Detailed information, updates, and nomination forms are available on the official award webpage. For direct inquiries, contact the award committee via the contact form on the official award webpage.

Evaluating Nominees' Contributions to Education

Impact on Education

- What has been the scope of the nominee's influence within their school or the wider educational system?
- Can you provide specific examples of how the nominee's initiatives have transformed educational practices or outcomes?
- In terms of sustainability, how long have the nominee's changes been in place, and what is their expected longevity?
- Describe how the nominee's contributions have continued to benefit the school or educational community over time.

Creativity and Innovation

- What innovative methods or tools has the nominee introduced?
- How do these innovations differ from existing practices, and why are they considered groundbreaking?
- Describe the challenges faced during the implementation of these innovations and how they were overcome.
- Assess the effectiveness of these innovations in achieving their intended goals. Provide measurable outcomes if possible.

Leadership

- How has the nominee inspired others at their institution to adopt new methods or strategies?
- Provide an example where the nominee's leadership directly led to significant improvements in educational practices or outcomes.
- What is the nominee's vision for the future of education at their institution, and what steps are they taking to achieve it?

Community Involvement

- Describe the extent of the nominee's engagement with the community outside the school.
- What specific community projects or partnerships has the nominee initiated, and what outcomes have they achieved?
- How have these community engagements contributed to enhancing the educational environment at the school?
- Evaluate the real, measurable benefits brought to the community through the nominee's efforts.