

AIA ALABAMA - EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

4/22/26 – approved by AIA AL ExCom

I. Purpose:

AIA Alabama's Educator of the Year Award recognizes an educator whose teaching, service, contributions, scholarship, and values reflect an exemplary commitment to the education and development of the future architects who will shape our environment.

II. Eligibility:

This award is open to educators in accord with the following:

- Current or former educators of any rank or appointment, including faculty members, administrators, and staff affiliated with one of the NAAB-accredited architecture programs in the State of Alabama (Auburn University, Tuskegee University and Samford University [currently on track for NAAB accreditation]); and who have taught for at least 5 consecutive years in the State of Alabama.
- The Nominee must be living at time of nomination.

III. Criteria:

Nominees will be evaluated based on information submitted describing one or more of the following:

- **Teaching Excellence:** Evidence of impactful instruction, mentorship, and student success.
- **Leadership:** Development of transferable teaching methods, program innovation, or academic leadership.
- **Scholarly or Creative Contribution:** Scholarly achievement, including creative or critical practice, or other forms of scholarship that advance understanding of architecture and/or architectural education.
- **Professional and Community Engagement:** Contributions that connect students to practice, community engagement, or service that extends design education beyond the classroom and into communities.

IV. Nominations / Submissions:

Any AIA Alabama Member (or Associate Member), group of Members, or committee chaired by a Member may serve as Nominator. The Nominator may submit only one Nominee annually. The Nominator may notify the Nominee, and the Nominee may assist with the nomination information. Nominations shall be submitted to the email address noted in AIA Alabama's Call for Nominations and must be received by the date/time noted in same. Self-nominations are not allowed.

Each nomination shall contain sufficient detail to support the nomination and should **describe the Nominee's impact**. Each nomination shall contain the following:

Letter of Nomination: Letter shall explain the reasons for the nomination according to the stated Criteria; maximum of one (1) 8.5" x11" page.

Biographical Statement: A narrative introduction (300 word maximum) to the Nominee and his/her career.

Curriculum Vitae: Resume focusing on the Nominee's achievements; maximum of ten (10) 8.5" x11" pages.

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Supporting Letters: Maximum three (3) Supporting Letters (each letter maximum one [1] 8.5" x 11" page) from persons qualified to comment upon the significance of the Nominee's specific achievements, as follows:

- Provide minimum of one Supporting Letter from a student who graduated from the Nominee's institution within the previous three years.
- Provide minimum of one Supporting Letter by a peer/colleague from the Nominee's institution.
- If collaborator(s) participated in Nominee's achievements, provide minimum of one letter from a collaborator.
- *Guidance from the Committee regarding Supporting Letters:*
 - All shall contain specific reasons for supporting the Nominee's nomination.
 - All shall be on company or university letterhead.
 - Supporting Letters can be from multiple authors (a "group letter").
 - Author's signature may be original or electronic.

Supporting Material: Provide written and graphic evidence of the Nominee's achievements relative to the stated Criteria; maximum of ten (10) 8.5" x 11" pages.

- For projects involving others, credit all who contributed to the project.
- For architectural (or similar) projects, confirm extent of Nominee's responsibility for project.

Credited Individual Declaration: Provide executed "Credited Individual Declaration" form.

Image: Provide a digital image of Nominee (approx. 600 pixels wide x 600 pixels high; minimum 72 dpi; .jpg format); generally showing Nominee's head and shoulders. Name file with Nominee's first & last name.

Form of Submission: Except for Nominee's photo, submit all the above material as a single compiled .pdf file in the order listed; maximum 20mb. Submit Nominee's photo as a .jpg file.

V. **Presentation:**

The Award will be presented annually at a time / venue / manner determined by the AIA Alabama Executive Committee to befit the occasion.

VI. **Selection:**

AIA Alabama's Honor Awards Committee shall select the Honoree, after review and due consideration of all submissions. The Committee will evaluate all submissions based substantially on the information submitted related to the Criteria above. The Honor Awards Committee is comprised of AIA Alabama members in good standing (with representation from all local AIA chapters).

VII. **Symbol:**

The symbol(s) of the award shall distinguish the recipient as follows:

- In his/her daily business attire and/or for wear at formal or semi-formal occasions.
- Suitable for display on wall or desk of the recipient's place of business.

(End)