



## **Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher Award**

Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom (CoAITC) will present one Outstanding Teacher Award to an educator currently engaged in classroom instruction at the PreK-12 grade levels in the state of Colorado. This award recognizes a teacher for his/her creative efforts to integrate agriculture into his/her classroom and curricula to increase agricultural literacy. An agriculturally literate person is defined as “one who understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life.”

The winning Colorado teacher receives a \$500 monetary award and have up to \$1,500 of his/her related expenses paid to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) Conference June 24-27, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

If the winning teacher chooses not to attend the NAITC Conference, he/she will receive the \$500 monetary award from CoAITC, but he/she will not receive the \$1,500 designated for travel expenses. The runner-up CoAITC Outstanding Teacher Award winner will be offered the designated travel funds of up to \$1,500 to attend the NAITC Conference.

If the winning teacher is selected as a National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award Winner and the NAITC Organization pays for his/her expense to attend the NAITC Conference, the runner-up Outstanding Teacher Award Winner from Colorado will have the opportunity to have up to \$1,500 of his/her travel expense paid to attend the NAITC Conference.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Colorado licensed teachers that are currently engaged in integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural education settings at the PreK-12 grade levels are eligible. Applications may be from an individual or a team of teachers working together. Please note that only one award and prize totaling \$2,000 will be made per team. High school and middle school agricultural educators are not eligible for this award.

The size of an educator’s class or school and geographical location are not factors of the selection criteria. An educator from a small school or a rural school has equal chance of winning as one from a large or urban school.

Past winners (since 2018) of the CoAITC Outstanding Teacher Award are not eligible to win again. Past applicants that did not win are encouraged to resubmit their application in following years.

## REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated by a review committee that will score the applications based on a rubric of 100 possible points. Scores will be averaged for each application. The rubric is based on these four criteria:

- **25 points - Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information:** The degree to which sound agricultural concepts have been infused into the classroom curriculum. References should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning.
- **25 points - Interdisciplinary Approach:** The degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects or topics. Value will be placed on the approach which teaches agriculture across the curriculum or subject.
- **25 points - Student Impact:** Evidence of positive change in behavior, student attitudes and overall learning. This can be qualitative or quantitative evidence, quotes, or student work.
- **25 points - Overall Impact, Longevity of the Program:** Evidence of historical and new agricultural concepts introduced to the class and/or school wide.

## EXPECTATIONS AND RECOGNITION

The winner of the CoAITC Outstanding Teacher Award may apply for the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization Excellence in Teacher About Agriculture Award. CoAITC staff will work with the Colorado award winner to complete and submit application components by the mid-January deadline.

The state winner may be asked to present at CoAITC's Summer AgriCULTURE Institute to share programs and experiences with other educators.

CoAITC will write and distribute a press release on the winner. Additionally, CoAITC will work with the winner to recognize the teacher and his/her accomplishments at his/her school/district. CoAITC will work with the winner if other recognition opportunities become available.

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The application should not exceed five (5) pages in length, excluding supporting material.

**Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2023 and should be emailed to [Info@coagclassroom.org](mailto:Info@coagclassroom.org).** For questions, contact Jennifer Scharpe, CoAITC Executive Director at 720-788-3224 or email [info@coagclassroom.org](mailto:info@coagclassroom.org).

# **Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher Award – Application Form**

*This completed application should not exceed five pages, not including supporting material.*

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name:

Home address:

Email address:

Mobile phone number:

School name:

School address:

School phone number:

Grade level:

Subjects taught:

Number of years teaching experience:

Number of years at current school:

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Education (Include Institution, Year, and Degree/Certification):

Professional Experience (Include Position, School/Organization, Dates, and Average number of students taught per year):

Awards and Honors Related to Teaching:

Other Recognition or Honors:

Membership in Professional Organizations:

One Paragraph Biographical Sketch:

### **SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS**

How have you integrated agriculture into classroom teaching?

Why do you integrate agriculture into classroom learning, i.e., why is agriculture important?

What impact has integrating agriculture in your curriculum and classroom had on you and your students?

How are you encouraging your colleagues and other educators to utilize agriculture as a teaching tool?

**SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

Applicants are encouraged to share photos, news clippings, letters of support, an original lesson plan or activity, or other documentation that illustrates how agricultural literacy is integrated into their classroom and curriculum. Up to four items may be included.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE**

By signing in the space below, I certify that all information is correct and that I am the person completing this application. By submission of this application, I hereby release all components of this application, including photographs, to Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom (CoAITC) for use on the website; to be shared with sponsors; and for use in brochures, media releases, and publicity promotion future recognition of the organization. As an applicant, I understand I will be subscribed to the CoAITC e-newsletter to learn more about new educational resources, grants, workshops, events, and news.

Applicant's full name:

Applicant's signature:

Date signed: