

# 2012 FEA LEADERSHIP AWARD



ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: High School Students — Juniors and Seniors Only

## Award Purpose

The FEA Leadership Award, sponsored by the PDK Greater San Antonio chapter, honors members who exemplify the characteristics that the Future Educators Association® seeks to develop among its members, including sound leadership qualities and a strong commitment to improving education in local communities. This award is given to FEA members who have made notable, voluntary contributions to education and, in doing so, demonstrated outstanding initiative. The FEA Leadership Award is the highest honor that an FEA member can earn.

**To earn this award, FEA members must successfully complete a self-initiated service learning project that focuses on an education-related issue in his or her community and requires a minimum of 40 hours of work.** The FEA Leadership Award project must demonstrate the student's personal growth throughout the course of the project. The project must be useful and relevant to the student beyond the scope of the project itself.

The FEA Leadership Award was created to inspire all FEA members by honoring those doing exceptional work, as well as to provide outstanding FEA members with recognition that can be used to their advantage on college applications and in job interviews. This award aims to demonstrate the commitment of the Future Educators Association to developing the next generation of great teacher leaders. Entries will be reviewed by a committee. All projects that meet the established criteria and demonstrate leadership, personal growth, and a significant contribution to education will be recognized and awarded.

**While there is no limit to the number of students who can receive this award in a given year, only ONE student will be chosen as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship, provided by the PDK Greater San Antonio chapter.**

This competition is cross-walked with the following Education and Training Career Cluster Knowledge and Skill Statements: EDC07.

## Eligibility for Entry

- A. This competition is open to good-standing FEA members in high school or college. (Students may or may not be affiliated with an FEA chapter.)
- B. If you are affiliated with an FEA chapter, entries are limited to one student per chapter. Each chapter may have a local run-off competition to select the winning entrant to represent it. However, a local competition is not required.
- C. All competition materials must be submitted online by 11:59:59 PM (Eastern) on January 4, 2012.
- D. Students must be registered for the FEA National Conference by January 20, 2012, and be present at the conference.
- E. Entrants grant PDK International, the sponsoring organization of FEA, the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any other media without compensation.

## Award Guidelines

The student must complete an education-related service learning project that makes a concrete and visible impact in the student's school or community. A minimum of 40 hours is required. The student must then complete a well-organized portfolio that includes an essay describing the project, as well as supporting artifacts. **There are two components to the project portfolio: the essay and the artifacts. If the artifacts are not included, the application will be disqualified.**

## Essay Guidelines

The essay must be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, and written in English. The essay cannot exceed 20 pages. The student should address the following sections in the essay. These sections must be clearly labeled.

### A. Title Page

Include your name, your advisor's name, your school name and address, and the title of your project.

### B. Executive Summary

Give a one-page overview of your project. Include highlights from each section of the essay (background, project

description, and reflection). For example, an executive summary might include a brief summary of the reasoning behind your project, what the project entailed, and the primary lessons that you learned from this experience.

### C. Background

What is the issue? Why did you choose this project? Why is this project necessary and appropriate for this time and place? Who will benefit from this project? How does this project benefit education? How will this project impact the work and reputation of your FEA chapter?

### D. Project Description

Describe the process of completing your project. Questions to consider include:

- How did you determine a plan for your project? What was your method for gathering information and making strategic decisions?
- Did you need specific materials or volunteers? If so, how did you obtain them? How did you keep everything and everyone organized?
- How much time did you spend on this project? How did you spend most of your time? Was that different than what you anticipated? If so, how? How did you keep a record of progress?
- Did you make any significant changes to your project during the process? If so, did that affect the overall outcome? How?
- How did you know when the project was completed? Was there any presentation or debut of the final product?

### E. Reflection

Reflect on the overall experience. Think about what you learned about yourself and those who benefited from the project. Consider how this experience will influence you in your future career in education. Questions to consider include:

- What did you learn about yourself as a project leader? What skills did you acquire that you can use in your career as an educator? How did this project affect you personally?
- What impact did this project have on your community? Given the project's outcome, did you spend your time well?
- What did you learn about working with others or managing people?
- What would you do differently, if anything?
- What do the beneficiaries think of the work that you led? How has your project positively impacted education or supported the work of FEA?

### F. References

If you cited any research within your essay, be certain to include a reference section. Follow a recognized format such as APA or MLA when writing your reference section.

### Artifacts Guidelines

In addition to your essay, you must include artifacts in your project portfolio. An artifact is anything that demonstrates or exemplifies the work that you put into your service project. All artifacts should clearly and directly relate to the project objectives. Here is a list of sample artifacts that you might include:

- Photographs
- Newspaper articles or other media coverage of your project
- Reflective journal
- Project timeline
- Log of how time was spent
- Testimonials from beneficiaries of your project
- Letters of commendation

## View Examples of FEA Leadership Award Projects

To gain a better understanding of the types of projects that are appropriate and the quality of work that the judges are looking for, we encourage you to review projects of previous FEA Leadership Award winners. (You should not replicate one of these projects. These are just samples.)

2011 Winner: Raven Hall, “Ready...Set...Read!”

2010 Winner: Keith E. Davidson Jr., “Mentors for Low-Socioeconomic Students”

## Judging and Scoring

- A. The judges’ decisions are final.
- B. Qualification for the FEA Leadership Award is based on a point system. The total number of points possible is 150. The essay is worth 100 points and the artifacts are worth 50 points. To qualify for the FEA Leadership Award, the student must earn—at the very minimum—130 points.
- C. Scoring is based on the FEA Leadership Award rubric. The rubric is based on the details provided in the submitted portfolio as described in the Award Guidelines section. In addition to the Award Guidelines, judges will also consider several other basic standards, including:
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure
  - Organization of portfolio
- Does it create a compelling story? Is it organized and easy to understand? Is it clear what the artifacts are and how they support the portfolio?*

Because the FEA Leadership Award is the highest award that an FEA member can earn, it is understood that the project portfolio will be held to a professional standard. All of these components are accounted for in the rubric.

- D. Those selected as recipients of the FEA Leadership Award will be recognized at the FEA National Conference. The scholarship award winner will also be announced at that time. (Note: students do not have to be present at the FEA National Conference to apply for the FEA Leadership Award.)

## How to Enter

- A. The entry form and project portfolio must be submitted online by 11:59:59 PM (Eastern) on January 4, 2012. (Project portfolios will not be accepted by mail. You must submit your portfolio via the online submission system at [www.futureeducators.org/events/competition.htm](http://www.futureeducators.org/events/competition.htm).)
- B. Print the confirmation page for your records after completing the online submission form.



The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities for 2011-2012.

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's School \_\_\_\_\_

*(Points awarded may range between zero and maximum number indicated.)*

**DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY (100 of 150 pts.)**

**Title Page (5 pts.)**

- Did the student provide his/her name, advisor's name, school name and address, and the title of his/her project?

**Executive Summary (10 pts.)**

- Did the student include an executive summary?
- Was the executive summary one page in length?
- Did the summary give an overview of the project, including highlights from each section of the essay (background, project description, and reflection)?

**Background (20 pts.)**

- Did the student explain why he or she chose this project?
- Did the student create a strong case for why this project is important?
- Did the student clearly articulate who will benefit from this project?
- Did the student clearly articulate how the service project will impact education in a positive way?

**Project Description (20 pts.)**

- Did the student clearly describe the project?
- Did the student fully explain the different phases of the project, including describing how time was spent and what resources were needed?
- Did the student outline how he or she gathered relevant information and/or made strategic decisions?
- Did the student outline how he or she knew when the project was completed and describe what the final outcome was?

**Reflection (30 pts.)**

- Did the student demonstrate thoughtful, meaningful reflection upon the project?
- Did the student identify "lessons learned" that will help him or her as a future educator?
- Did the student reflect upon the impact of the project on the identified beneficiaries?

**References (5 pts.)**

- If research is cited, is a reference list included?

**Basic Essay Standards (10 pts.)**

- Were grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure correct?
- Were essay sections labeled?

**SAMPLE ARTIFACTS (50 of 150 pts.)**

- Were sample artifacts included?  
***If no, disqualify application immediately.***
- Did the sample artifacts clearly and directly relate to the project?
- Did the sample artifacts add meaning and clarity to the portfolio?
- Did the applicant provide a variety of artifacts that help illustrate different aspects of the project?

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 150**