

December 1st, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce we are now accepting nominations for the 2023 *NEOA Rising Star Award*. This award was developed in 2011 by the Board of Directors to identify emerging professionals who are former participants of New England's Educational Opportunity Programs. This award allows our region to recognize Rising Stars who have either completed their associate degree and/or their bachelor's degree and are just beginning to make an impact in their careers and communities. The *Rising Star Award* honors emerging leaders who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and serve as a role model for other low-income, first-generation college bound students and students with disabilities. *NEOA Rising Star* nominees should be worthy of distinction and possess all of the following attributes:

- Demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in their profession.
- Received an associate or bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and two to five years professional experience in their field.
- Engages in or is developing a leadership role in civic, community, or professional development activities.
- Participated in an educational opportunity program that had a significant impact on their ability to achieve educational and/or professional objectives (as acknowledged by the participant).

A nomination form is below. In your nomination letter, please address the four points in the above criteria to ensure that your nominee is eligible. Note that you may make nominations outside your project or program and that your nominee does not have to reside in New England. Also please note, it is necessary for your nominee to write a brief statement (500 words or less) acknowledging the impact of the Educational Opportunity Program on their academic and/or professional lives. This statement must be submitted with your nomination form. In addition, for the nomination to be valid, the nominator must be a 2022-2023 NEOA member. If you have any questions regarding your membership in our association please feel free to email **Andrea Dawes, NEOA Membership Chair** at Andrea.Dawes@umb.edu or **Jessica Coronel Co-Chair, Membership & Credentials** at coronelj@wcsu.edu.

All submissions for the NEOA Achiever Award must be received in full by **Wednesday, February 1st, 2023**. Late applications will be rolled over into the 2024 applicant pool. Award winners will be selected and notified in late February/early March. The awards presentation will take place during the 2023 NEOA Annual Conference.

NEOA Rising Star Nomination Criteria

1. The individual is an emerging leader who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in their profession.
2. The individual has received an associate or bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and two to five years professional experience in their field.
3. The individual engages in or is developing a leadership role in civic, community, or professional development activities.
4. The individual participated in an educational opportunity program that had a significant impact on their ability to achieve educational and/or professional objectives (as acknowledged by the participant).

NEOA Rising Star Application Packet

- The application cover page (see below).
- A letter of nomination. This letter should address each of the four points listed in the nomination criteria. Please include any unique factors or noteworthy accomplishments for this candidate. Also, please address any significant obstacles that this candidate has faced.
- A written statement (500 words or less) from the candidate outlining the impact participation in the educational opportunity program had on his or her educational and/or professional objectives.
- A one to two page resume, vitae, or statement indicating educational background, professional employment, academic and/or professional honors, professional, community, or civic contributions and other information pertinent to the nomination.
- A Digital Photo - for our Conference Booklet!
- **Deadline: All application materials must be received in full by February 1st, 2023.** Any not received by this date will gladly be forwarded to next year's committee.

E-mail, postal mail, or fax your application materials to:

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Keene, New Hampshire 03435-1801

For more information on NEOA, go to www.neoaonline.org

NEOA RISING STAR AWARD APPLICATION

Personal Information:

Candidate Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Email:

Degree received:

Traditional Student:

Non-traditional Student:

Educational Opportunity Program Participation:

Project:

Institution/Agency:

Dates of Participation:

Project Director or Counselor During Participation:

Name of Person Nominating:

Address:

Phone:

Email: