**Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional of the Year Award**

Since 1988, an award has been presented for the Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional of the Year. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution to the early care and education field in Arkansas. The eligibility requirements to be selected for this award reflect the professional standards that are in place to serve in the capacity of early childhood educators in Arkansas. OEC wants to recognize the outstanding individuals who dedicate their time and energy into children to foster a love of learning while also ensuring each child’s health and safety in their care. Our children deserve the best and because of the efforts of these educators throughout Arkansas, they receive the best!

**To be considered for this honor, nominees must meet the following requirements:**

* Meet Minimum Licensing Requirements for child care staff
* Be employed by an Arkansas facility participating in Better Beginnings level 2 or above
* Be employed in early childhood education for a minimum of 3 years
* Plan on remaining in early childhood education for 2025
* Be willing to serve as an early childhood ambassador

**The award recipient may have the opportunity to:**

* Serve as an early childhood ambassador on OEC committees
* Represent early childhood educators in the media
* Be featured through media outlets including OEC websites & social media

Nomination packets must be received via email at joshua.burchfield@ade.arkansas.gov no later than 4:30 PM on April 30, 2025.

**Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional of the Year**

**Nomination Form**

**I. Nominee Information**

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

City: Click or tap here to enter text.

State: Click or tap here to enter text.

Zip: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

**II. Employment Information:**

Facility name: Click or tap here to enter text.

License Number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

City: Click or tap here to enter text.

State: Arkansas

Zip: Click or tap here to enter text.

Current position: Click or tap here to enter text.

Ages of children working with: Click or tap here to enter text.

**III. Education and Experience:**

Education, including degrees, certificates and credentials earned: Click or tap here to enter text.

Experience: Click or tap here to enter text.

(A current resume may be submitted with nomination packet.)

**IV. Professional/Community Affiliations:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Activity in professional organizations or work on behalf of young children: Click or tap here to enter text.

Community/volunteer activities: Click or tap here to enter text.

Professional Recognition: Click or tap here to enter text.

**V. Contributions to the field of early childhood care and education**: Click or tap here to enter text.

**VI. References:**

List three references with phone numbers and email addresses below.

Reference letters from the three individuals must be included.

**Nomination will NOT be considered without them.**

1. Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Click or tap here to enter text.

**VII. Person Submitting Nomination:**

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

City: Click or tap here to enter text.

State: Click or tap here to enter text.

Zip: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Relationship to nominee: Click or tap here to enter text.

**VIII: Checklist**

**The following must be submitted at the time of the nomination for the individual to be considered:**

[ ] Nomination application

[ ] Nominee questionnaire

[ ] Three reference letters

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Questionnaire

**Please use additional pages as necessary. Return with nomination forms via email at** joshua.burchfield@ade.arkansas.gov **no later than 4:30 PM on April 30, 2025.**

1. Who or what influenced you to become an early childhood professional? Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Who have your professional role models been and why? Click or tap here to enter text.

3. How do you feel your work has made a difference or had an impact on children or families? Click or tap here to enter text.

4. What strategies do you use to positively motivate children? Click or tap here to enter text.

5. What is your vision for the field of early childhood education in Arkansas? Click or tap here to enter text.

6. Why do you think someone would nominate you as an outstanding professional in the field of early childhood education? Click or tap here to enter text.

7. If selected you will be an early childhood education ambassador for Arkansas. What does that mean to you? Click or tap here to enter text.

8. What would your message be to those involved in early childhood education, including other professionals, parents and the public? Click or tap here to enter text.

9. What do you see as your own greatest contribution and accomplishment? Click or tap here to enter text.

10. What do you hope to accomplish in the future? Click or tap here to enter text.

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Signature Date