



Champions of Innovation Award

*Presented by Arizona Rural Schools Association
and Sponsored by Arizona State University*



March 5, 2026
Nominations Open
May 4, 2026
Nominations Close
September 25, 2026
Award Presented

About the Award

This award recognizes a leader in rural public education who exemplifies excellence through visionary leadership leading to the implementation of innovative practices securing a higher quality education for students at their rural public school or charter. Such innovation should demonstrate:

- Commitment to educational quality and student achievement and a vision of learning that is shared and supported by the school community.
- Facilitating a sustainable school culture and instructional programs conducive to student learning and staff development.
- Effective identification of student academic needs and appropriate instructional strategies to achieve measurable student academic improvement outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria

- ARSA Member
- District/school leader with at least two years of experience
- Nominated by a peer recognizing the visionary leadership
- Able to point to a singular innovative achievement transforming the quality of education within their school or district
- Able to articulate the vision grounding their innovative approach to public education
- Able to demonstrate (with testimonials or data) that the innovation implemented positively affected student achievement levels
- Letters of support from at least two staff engaged in the implemented practice

Nominee Information

First and Last Name: _____ School/District: _____

Position: _____ Length of Service in Current Position: _____

Email: _____ Work Phone Number: _____ Home/Cell Phone Number: _____

Home Address: _____ City, State, ZIP: _____

Work Experience / Positions Held with Dates:

Memberships & Offices Held in Professional Organizations with Dates:

Publications/Articles/Presentations with Dates:

Community Leadership with Dates:

Statement of Vision:

Please submit your nomination by emailing **Megan.McDonald.1@asu.edu** and attaching this completed nomination form. In order for your nomination to be considered it must be submitted by May 4, 2026.