

Elsie Toles Rural Women in Educational Leadership Award

Presented by Arizona Rural Schools Association and Grand Canyon University K12 Educational Development



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



About the Award

This award is named after Elsie Toles, the first female Superintendent of Public Instruction for Arizona. The Award, sponsored by Grand Canyon University's K12 Educational Development Department, is presented at the Arizona Rural Schools Association (ARSA) Conference each fall. One winner will be selected to win a \$250 award. Nominees can be nominated by another person, and self nominations are also welcome.

Nomination and Self-Nomination Criteria

- Current female administrator in a rural Arizona public school or district
- At least three years of experience as an administrator
- Letter of recommendation or self-nomination letter
- 250-300 word description of how the nominee has excelled in one or more of the following areas:
 1. Collaboration with rural stakeholders
 2. "Grow Your Own" programs for teachers or school leaders
 3. Innovative leadership in a rural setting
 4. Student growth and student programs
 5. Positive campus climate
 6. Shared-use spaces with community and community organizations
 7. Advocacy efforts supporting rural education

Nominator Information

Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by another person.

First and Last Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Position: _____ Relation to Nominee: _____

Write "self" if self-nominating

Nominee Information

First and Last Name: _____ School/District Organization : _____

Position: _____ Length of Service in Current Position: _____

Previous Leadership Positions Held:

Explain how the nominee has excelled in one or more of the seven areas listed above in 250-300 words:

Please submit your nomination by emailing cherryl.paul@gcu.edu and attaching this completed nomination form. In order for your nomination to be considered it must be submitted by May 4, 2026.