

Middle School EOE Conference Award Descriptions

Middle School Functional Chapter Members of the Year

This award honors the vital work done by our functional members who work directly with middle school students and play a crucial part in ensuring the vitality of their chapters and school communities. Award recipients will have demonstrated a strong commitment to unionism as well as their professional practice.

Eligibility

- Current UFT member
- COPE Contributor
- Members of functional chapters (see below) who work directly with middle school students in grades 6-8
 - School Counselor (5 years of service required)
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Physical Therapist
 - School nurse
 - Paraprofessional
 - Social Worker
 - Psychologist

Guiding Questions

Empowerment

How has the nominee used the tools in our contract to strengthen their chapter and school?

- How have they worked to resolve issues and advocate through chapter committees (Consultation, Safety, PD, MOSL, Political Action, etc.)?
- How has the Operational Issues Process been used to resolve school/chapter issues?
- How have they worked to educate members about our union, contractual rights and benefits?

Organizing

How has the nominee worked with members of their chapter as well as other stakeholders (families, city agencies, political organizations, etc.) to make positive change?

- How were chapter committees and teams used?
 - Political Action, Consultation, Sunshine, Professional Development, Membership, New Teacher, etc.
- Working with student, parent, community groups and civic groups on shared goals
- Leadership development - How has the nominee worked to develop new leaders in their chapter?
 - Turning potential members into members, members into activists and activists into leaders

Engagement

How has the nominee contributed to building a culture of high member participation in union and community activities?

- Chapter participation - Evidence of distributive leadership, chapter meetings, rallies and outside events
- Attending union and professional conferences

Middle School Paraprofessional Reps of the Year

A paraprofessional from each borough will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to their school, their community and their union.

Eligibility

Meetings

- Attends monthly citywide paraprofessional representative meetings at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, Manhattan
- Holds paraprofessional meetings at school in collaboration with their chapter leader
- Attends district paraprofessional representative meetings
- Attends districtwide paraprofessional meetings

Participation

- Union events and activities
- Rallies and demonstrations
- Phone banks and other political action campaigns
- Other union activities

Teamwork

- Works with their chapter leader as it relates to union and school life and acts as a liaison between the chapter leader and paraprofessionals at school
- Works with district coordinator
- Works with borough coordinator
- Supports the leadership of the Paraprofessional Chapter and informs them of the problems or issues within their school, district and/or borough

Middle School Delegates of the Year

A delegate will be recognized from each borough for their outstanding contributions to their chapter. In addition to regular attendance at the Delegate Assembly, strong nominees will have a record of union leadership (i.e. actively supports work of chapter as well as union) and professional excellence.

Eligibility

- Chapter delegate of a school that includes students in grades 6-8
- Regular attendance at Delegate Assemblies
- Current UFT member
- COPE Contributor

Guiding Questions

Empowerment

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- Leadership development - How has the nominee worked to develop new leaders in their chapter?
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Engagement

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- Chapter participation - Evidence of distributive leadership, chapter meetings, rallies and outside events
- Attending union and professional conferences