

Better Beginnings Nomination Packet 2020

Deadline for application is:

Friday, February 28, 2020

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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HELEN BACH MOSS MEMORIAL FUND

The New York State Board of Regents is pleased to announce the Better Beginnings Award (BBA) in honor of Helen Bach Moss, a New York educator, who passed away in 1988. The award, which is sponsored by the Board of Regents, celebrates the life and career of Helen Bach Moss by recognizing elementary teachers who are gifted in finding and nurturing the strengths of each individual student.

Mrs. Moss touched the lives of many people, and her career was distinguished by a genuine respect for and love of children. She was ever caring toward students and their parents and acted as a worthy role model in all her endeavors. Her family and friends petitioned the Board of Regents to establish a memorial fund and provided an endowment to fund a cash stipend of \$5,000 for the winning elementary teacher. The school of the BBA awardee will also receive \$1,000.

For the 2020 Award cycle, awards of \$1,000 will be provided to two finalists. This award program recognizes early childhood education as the most effective investment for long-term educational success.

The Better Beginnings Award nomination process for a NYS certified teacher currently teaching at the elementary level (PreK-6) at a public or private school involves the preparation of statements of support from:

- **students,**
- **parents,**
- **administrators,**
- **other educators, and**
- **a local community member.**

The statements should include specific examples of the nominee's work to illustrate her or his skill at engaging young minds and developing nurturing relationships with elementary school students. One statement from each of the above categories.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of the award, which celebrates the life and career of Helen Bach Moss, is to recognize elementary teachers who are gifted in finding and nurturing the strengths of each student and fostering trusting relationships among pupils, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Eligibility

The nominee must be currently teaching at the elementary level (PreK-6) at a public or private school and be appropriately credentialed in New York State.

Nomination Procedure

The application for the award is **anecdotal in nature** and has **two** parts:

Part 1:

Complete the attached “Nominee Information Sheet,” which must include the signatures of the person nominating the teacher and the president of the local board of education.

Part 2:

The Statements of Nomination: Inclusion of **at least one**, and no more than two, statement(s) of nomination—with stated specific illustrative examples--from each of the following categories:

- Pupils
- Parents
- Administrators
- Teachers
- Community members (persons active in the school community, such as volunteers, business persons, social services workers, teacher aides, etc.)

Pupil Statements of Nomination may take the form of letters, drawings, or a combination of the two. Parent, administrator, teacher, school community member statements should take the form of letters, and each statement should be limited to two pages. Materials that exceed these limits will not be considered.

Selection Process:

Nominations are read by a selection committee of five persons representing different facets of the educational spectrum. The winner and two finalists are selected based upon the nominations and a personal interview. The winner is honored at a school-based ceremony, with Dr. Michael Moss, the fund's principal benefactor, and representatives from the New York State Education Department.

Nominees will be assessed and must demonstrate the following criteria:

- The teacher's ability to find and nurture the strengths and individual talents of each student by documenting innovative techniques used and citing instances of accomplishment and achievement in the lives of students;
- The teacher's exceptional character by referencing a specific circumstance which provides students opportunities to experience success; and
- The teacher's ability to foster mutually respectful relationships among pupils, parents, other teachers, and administrators.
- Assessment categories are:
 - Career focused on building better beginnings
 - Community Involvement
 - Classroom Experience and Environment
 - Student Success
 - Diversity

Nomination Packet Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
The Nomination Packet may be sent via email or mail.

Email the completed nomination packet with **“BBA Nomination”** in the subject line to:
Elena.bruno@nysed.gov

OR

Mail the nomination packet to:

**NYS Education Department
Office of Higher Education
89 Washington Avenue – Attention: Better Beginnings EB 5N
Albany, NY 12234**

Questions may be directed to Elena Bruno at (518) 486-2978 or elena.bruno@nysed.gov

Please complete the attached fillable Nomination form to complete the submission.