Louise D. and Morton J. Macks Center for Jewish Education

Annotated Award List

Sam Kahan Distinguished Educator/ Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education was established by the family of Sam Kahan in order to honor Sam for his many years of community leadership. This award perpetuates Sam’s legacy of personal commitment to Jewish education and to strengthening Baltimore’s Jewish educational institutions. The recipient is a master Jewish educator who serves as an inspiration to both students and peers and is also our community’s nominee for the national Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

The Rabbi Herbert Birnbaum Award honors a Jewish educator for extraordinary dedication to the Jewish people in general and distinguished service to Jewish education in particular.

Criteria:
- Taught for 20 years or more
- Provided significant service to Jewish education (e.g. through curriculum development, mentorship, visionary leadership, educational impact beyond one individual school etc.)
- Provided significant service to the Jewish people (e.g. through volunteerism, community projects, outreach efforts etc.)

The Rabbi Joseph Braver Award for Excellence in Jewish Education honors a Jewish educator who has exhibited outstanding performance and leadership in a Baltimore area Jewish school.

Criteria:
- Taught for a minimum of 15 years; in the same school for a minimum of 7 years
- Commands respect of colleagues and administration
- Serves beyond the classroom on special school projects or as division head
- Provides informal and formal mentorship to other educators in the school

The Novice Teacher Award honors an educator with exceptional promise, who demonstrates dedication to children and a combination of mastery over content knowledge and their classroom.

Criteria:
- Has been teaching 5 years or less
- Participates in professional development
- Demonstrates mastery of Judaic content knowledge
- Exhibits positive relationships/interactions with individual students and whole class.
The Samuel Glasner Creative Teaching Award honors a teacher who epitomizes creative, quality Jewish teaching.

Criteria:
- Employs creative techniques in the classroom
- Attends professional development regularly
- Receives consistently good evaluations
- Inspires colleagues to use more creative techniques in their classrooms

The Early Childhood Teaching Excellence Award honors an early childhood teacher for creative teaching and nurturing of young Jewish children with an integrated curriculum and environment, employing developmentally appropriate methods.

Criteria:
- Knowledgeable about Jewish education and general pedagogy
- Integrates Jewish content into classroom
- Ensures that the classroom reflects an optimum learning environment for young children
- Serves as a resource to parents and other educators in school

The Special Education Award honors an educator who displays sincere dedication to and advocacy for their students as well as creative and effective methodologies for reaching all learners.

Criteria:
- Accesses professional development regarding children with learning differences
- Uses classroom techniques that address learning modalities of all children
- Provides special education information and support to colleagues

Congregational Educator Award honors an educator in a congregational school who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to educating students in part-time Jewish schools.

Criteria:
- Teaches in a congregational school
- Creates an engaging experience that encourages students to extend Jewish living at home
- Represents a commitment to Jewish families and the Jewish Community and the congregational school model.
- Provides quality instruction, rich in Jewish values

The General Studies Educator Award honors an educator who demonstrates exceptional commitment to teaching in a Jewish day school environment, inspires children toward greater academic success and creatively works with the curriculum to maximize learning.

Criteria:
- Taught general studies for at least 6 years in a Jewish day school/Yeshiva
- Works creatively to deliver quality general studies education in a dual curriculum environment
- Collaborates with other teachers
- Respected and appreciated by parents and students

The Nathan and Ruth Lipsetts Award honors an educator who not only has exhibited unusually creative skills in the classroom but has played a perceptible role in the life and affairs of the Baltimore Jewish community.

Criteria:
- Taught a minimum of 10 years in Baltimore area schools
• Employs creative methods to reach students
• Develops projects and programs that reach the greater Jewish community
• Shares creativity and creative ideas with other educators

**Ahavat Tzion Award** honors an educator who demonstrates dedication to instilling a love and knowledge of Israel in students of any age.

**Criteria:**
• Candidates include classroom educators, youth educators, and professionals who impart substantive Israel content and experiences
• Encourages Jewish Identity through Israel connectedness
• Respected as a role model and exemplar of a Jewishly engaged adult
• Passionate about Israel and inspire others to have a positive outlook about Israel

**The Inspiring Educator Award** recognizes an educator who inspires students, colleagues and families with commitment to community.

**The High School Educator Award** honors a teacher who is exceptional at connecting with students, provides high level content that prepares students for higher education, and includes inspirational life lessons as part of their instructional practice.

**Lawrence M. Ziffer Jewish Educational Leadership Award** honors an educator for dedication to professional growth, commitment to effective school structure and inspirational leadership on behalf of the Jewish community.

**Adult Educator Award** honors an educator who employs best practice in reaching adult learners and inspires adults to invest in their own personal learning and growth.

**Criteria:**
• Candidates include professors, Melton teachers and informal educators in synagogues
• Content must be rooted in Jewish education and text
• Respected as a role model and exemplar of a Jewishly engaged adult