



2026 David G. Imig Award for Distinguished Achievement in Educator Preparation

About the Award

This award, overseen by the Executive Committee, recognizes an individual for distinguished achievement in the field of policy and/or research related to policy in educator preparation. The career achievement acknowledged by this award must take place in the formulation, implementation, research, or analysis of educator preparation policy. The award is named for AACTE President/CEO Emeritus David G. Imig, who led the Association from 1980 to 2005.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

This award may be presented to a political office holder who has made important contributions to educator preparation policy or research, to a member of an agency or an organization who has been instrumental in the advancement of educator preparation, to a policy analyst, to a researcher or scholar, or to an administrator whose work has had a significant positive impact on educator preparation policy or research.

The recipient(s) of this award need not be from an AACTE member institution or otherwise affiliated with AACTE, although there should be an obvious connection between the achievement recognized and AACTE's mission and work.

The Imig Award is presented annually, but the award committee may defer the award in any given year. Individuals may not nominate themselves.

The selection criteria include evidence of distinguished achievement in one or more of the following:

- Formulation of educator preparation policy
- Implementation of educator preparation policy
- Analysis of educator preparation policy
- Scholarship related to educator preparation policy
- Sustained impact on educator preparation policy
- Competitive preference will be given to submissions that align with [AACTE's strategic priority](#) related to [Advocating for High-Quality Educator Preparation](#) and [Advancing Educator Preparation Policy, Practice, and Research](#)

Submission Requirements

Application materials for this award must include:

- A 300-word biographical sketch of the nominee;
- One or more letters of support describing how the nominee fulfills the selection criteria listed above; and
- The nominee's curriculum vitae or resume.

For more information about this award, contact Marta Perez Drake at 202-478-4507 or at mdrake@aacte.org.

[Click here for nomination form.](#)

Entry Deadline: July 7, 2025