# 2027 Outstanding Partnership, Advocacy, and Collaboration Award (OPAC)

## About the Award

Presented by the Committee on Membership Outreach and Engagement, this distinguished award recognizes member institutions that exemplify the spirit of **collaboration,** the power of **advocacy,** and the strength of **partnership** in advancing educator preparation. It celebrates institutions that actively engage their colleagues and students in AACTE initiatives—whether through compelling conference presentations, impactful webinars or transformative leadership opportunities. This award is more than a recognition—it's a celebration of institutions that build capacity by connecting, empowering, and elevating their communities through meaningful engagement with AACTE. The winning institution will be honored with special recognition at AACTE's Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH

## Purpose and Vision

The award is more than a recognition—it is a celebration of institutions that build capacity by connecting, empowering, and elevating their communities. Through meaningful engagement with AACTE, these institutions serve as models of excellence in fostering inclusive, innovative, and impactful practices in educator preparation.

## Eligibility and Selection Criteria

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Regular members (schools, colleges, and departments of education) may apply.
- Membership must be in good standing (dues paid) at the time of submission.

**Selection Criteria** – Member institutions must display the following*. Please include your students in these categories.* Activities listed will be considered eligible for selection criteria.

- Engagement in membership capacity-building
- Advocacy & professionalism
- Presenting at an AACTE event
- Day on the Hill participation
- Proposal submission
- Legislative engagement at state level
- Conference attendance
- TAG participation
- State Chapter involvement
- Committee service
- Mentor programs
- Webinar attendance
- Support for students and new faculty
- Proposal reviewer
- Social media activity

- Club membership (e.g. Kappa Delta Pi)
- Holmes Program participation
- *Journal of Teacher Education* (JTE) service (e.g. reviewer, board service, etc.)
- Blog post authoring in *EdPrepMatters*
- Collaboration & partnerships
- Grants and programs that include collaboration with K-12 (outside of field placements) and/or community-based partnerships
- Partnerships with other IHEs (e.g. community colleges)
- Member referrals
- Contracts with local education associations (LEAs) and K-12 partners
- In kind work (e.g. professional development and research collaborations)

## Submission Requirements

- Narrative describing how the institution displays effective, innovative, and successful engagement with AACTE (2,000-word max. narrative covering selection criteria categories).
- Portfolio that contains artifacts displaying examples of how the institution exhibited each of the selection criteria (e.g. verification that five colleagues attended Annual Conference).
- Letter(s) of support and/or recommendation (e.g. from K-12 partner, state chapter president, AACTE committee chair, Holmes Program coordinator, etc.)
- Submissions should emphasize how each of the selection criteria ties into the AACTE Strategic Priorities.
- Throughout your submission, emphasize how your institution:
    - **Connects** with AACTE through active participation.
    - **Empowers** educators and students via leadership and innovation.
    - **Elevates** the field of educator preparation through advocacy and partnership.

For more information about this award, contact the Membership Department at membership@aacte.org

**Click here for nomination form**

Entry Deadline: **October 9, 2026**