

Educator of the Year Nominees:

• Voting will be done through a Google form. *Medina will post the link to the form in the chat* •
Voting will be open from now until 2:00

▪ Lori Hilliard, nominated by Ellen Wharton

It is my honor to nominate Lori Hilliard for NCTAE's Educator of the Year.

Lori has been teaching in the Asheville/Buncombe Community for 24 years. Her contagious enthusiasm has been shared with students from grades 5 through 12, educating them about the wonderful world of theatre and how they may use their own drama in a positive manner. Using 21st Century skills through creative dramatics and group work, Lori strives to advocate for theatre in schools as a necessity in helping solidify and promote a well-rounded education.

Lori's skills go beyond the classroom. She is also an example of high standards in community and professional theaters in the Asheville setting. She has served on the board of Asheville Community Theatre and North Carolina Stage Company, as well as directing and performing and organizing community outreach. She has been responsible for grant writing and fundraising for the Asheville theatrical community. She even finds time to continue her acting as a professional voice over actor.

As a lifelong learning teacher, she is eager to share this knowledge and experience with students and fellow teachers alike. She is a recurring participant in NCTAE's Fall Sharing and Winter Focus as well as an active member of EdTA. Lori is quite impressive in her theatrical talents, but more than that, as a friend. She has been a constant support, always encouraging me to never give up. Even through her own battles this past year with cancer, she demonstrated courage and strength to her students, community and friends.

Lori's passion for the profession is inspirational and infectious, while her positive outlook lightens the tough road ahead. From classroom to community to state levels, Lori is a fine example of what theatre arts education is about.

▪ Emily Klingman, nominated by Stacey Boone

I would like to nominate Emily Klingman for NCTAE's educator of the year.

Emily Klingman is a teacher at Bailey Middle School and teaches 6-8 Drama/Theatre Arts.

Emily began her membership with NCTAE ten years ago and has participated in all conferences since becoming a member. In addition, she has led workshops at the fall sharing which are always engaging and innovative.

Emily leads our drama middle school PLC and plans the theatre professional development for the Theatre teachers in our district. Last year, while remote, the middle school drama teachers met weekly to share ideas and solve problems together. This was successful due in large part to Emily's leadership and vast knowledge of theatre arts.

In our community, Emily is recognized by many for her performances in many local theatres, including Theatre Charlotte and Davidson Community Players. In addition to teaching for CMS, she works as a teaching artist throughout the year for several theatre companies.

Emily is in her sixth year as a board member of The North Carolina Theatre Conference. This year, she is serving on the executive board as secretary. Her students perform every year at The NCTC Middle School Play Festival and always amaze the young audience with challenging plays, including an annual Shakespeare piece.

I am always impressed with Emily's commitment and passion for NCTAE, especially with the NC Young Playwrights Festival, which has grown under her leadership.

I am grateful to know Emily and get to work alongside her. She is a treasure.