



Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation Gene Amberg Excellence in Teaching Endowed Chair Award Nomination Form

Dr. Gene Amberg (Ph.D.) began his career in public education in 1972 as an elementary school teacher in St. Louis, Missouri. He was named superintendent of Urbana School District in 1992. In 2003, the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation Gene Amberg Excellence in Teaching Endowed Chair was established to honor Dr. Amberg's leadership and dedication to children and educators throughout his career. Professional colleagues, friends, and family continue to contribute to this endowment, to be presented to an Urbana School District teacher every three years for excellence in teaching. The eight traits of excellence (listed on the next page) are qualities Dr. Amberg believes an excellent teacher will model on a daily basis.

AWARD CRITERIA

- The nominee must be a tenured full-time classroom teacher in Urbana School District.
- Nominations may be submitted by: 1) self 2) peer 3) student 4) former student 5) parent 6) supervisor 7) administrator.
- The Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation will present the monetary award annually over the course of three years. Any teacher who plans to retire from the Urbana School District during the three years of the award is not eligible. A recipient who leaves the school district or retires before the end of the three-year award period will forfeit the remaining balance of the award upon resignation/retirement from the school district.
- Nomination packets must include one letter of support from each of the following categories: 1) colleagues b) school administrator c) former student.
- Nominations must answer the eight questions posed on page 3 of this document regarding the eight traits a "teacher of excellence" exemplifies. Responses should not be lengthy – any responses exceeding a total five-page maximum will not be considered.

THE EIGHT TRAITS OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

An excellent teacher:

- ✓ Practices the keen sense of criticality of relationships with his/her students.
- ✓ Utilizes imaginative approaches to keep his/her students interested.
- ✓ Demonstrates a willingness to take the risk of pursuing needed learner solutions in their classroom(s).
- ✓ Recognizes and practices that learning is continuous and mutual.
- ✓ Displays qualities of warmth and a caring attitude toward students, colleagues, and parents.
- ✓ Communicates effectively with parents, both orally and written.
- ✓ Applies the concepts of firm, fair, and friendly in the classroom.
- ✓ Maintains a sense of humor in dealing with peers, students, and stakeholders.

If someone other than the nominee submits this nomination, the nominee must consent to this submission.

Nominee's name (please print) _____

Nominee's signature (if required for consent) _____

School where nominee teaches _____

Grade level(s) _____ Year of employment with Urbana School District 116 _____

Name of nominator (please write legibly) _____

Nominator's work phone _____ Nominator's email _____

NOMINATION PACKETS THAT ARE INCOMPLETE, OR EXCEED THE SPECIFIED NUMBER OF PAGES, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, April 4, 2014, at 4:00 PM

Nomination packets must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Superintendent's Office,
205 North Race Street, Urbana, IL 61801 by the deadline date and time.

Your checklist for submission:

- Did you enclose this page, or a copy of this page, with all the required information?
- Did you include the signature of the nominee, if someone other than self?
- Did you include the three letters of support (one from each category)?
- Did you answer each of the following eight questions?
- Did your answers for the following eight questions maintain the five-page maximum length?

Please maintain a five-page total maximum for your responses to the following eight questions.

1. How does the nominee practice the keen sense of criticality of relationships with his/her students?
2. How does the nominee utilize imaginative approaches to keep his/her students interested?
3. How has the nominee demonstrated a willingness to take the risk of pursuing needed learner solutions in their classroom(s)?
4. How does the nominee recognize and practice that learning is continuous and mutual?
5. How does the nominee display the qualities of warmth and a caring attitude toward students, colleagues, and parents?
6. Provide an example of the nominee's ability to communicate with parents, both orally and written?
7. How does the nominee apply the concepts of firm, fair, and friendly in the classroom?
8. Demonstrate how the nominee demonstrates a sense of humor in dealing with peers, students, and stakeholders?

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