



Dear DI Users, Trainers, and Advocates,

An important feature of Direct Instruction (DI) is to celebrate success—the success of students, teachers, and entire schools. For many years, there has been a tradition of recognizing individual and group achievements at the annual National Direct Instruction Conference in Eugene, Oregon. The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) will continue this tradition at the 51st National DI Conference through the Excellence in Education Awards this summer! An awards ceremony will take place at the National DI Conference in Eugene, and the recipients of the following awards will be recognized:

- Siegfried Engelmann Excellence in Education Award – This award is named after Siegfried “Zig” Engelmann, co-creator of Direct Instruction, senior author of the DI programs, and founder of NIFDI. The recipient of this award can be anyone – a teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, college professor, etc. – who has provided a significant contribution to the field of education and/or student achievement.
- Wes Becker Excellent School Award – This award is named after Wesley Becker, co-creator of Direct Instruction and longtime Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Oregon. This award is given to a school for exemplary implementation of Direct Instruction.
- The Carnine/McRoberts Student Improvement Award – This award is named in memory of the parents of Doug and Linda Carnine. It is given to a student who has demonstrated remarkable academic success with DI. Teachers submit nominations. The winner, selected by Doug and Linda, will be presented with a plaque and a \$1000 cash award. The nominating school will also receive a \$1000 award.

The following pages contain nomination forms for the awards. An independent committee will review nominations from the field and honor individuals and schools that have made a significant difference in the educational achievement of children. Please take time to think about and nominate a student, colleague, and/or school. Perhaps it is someone who worked with a child after a parent had been told the child “has a learning disability” and will never learn to read. Or a classroom teacher whose students have consistently shown notable performance gains. Your nominee may be a principal who stood by what was right and implemented DI successfully. Or a college professor who taught a methods class centered around DI. Or a student who made amazing progress this current school year. There are many more examples out there.

Please take the opportunity to honor a member of the DI “family.” This recognition is such a simple thing, but it means so much to the individuals and our profession. The deadline for submission is June 3. I hope to see many nominations!

Sincerely,

Kurt Engelmann,
President



2026 Siegfried Engelmann Excellence in Education Award Nomination Form

Procedure:

- 1) Complete both sides of this form. Use extra pages as needed. You may also complete this form online at <https://bit.ly/Zig-Award-2026>
- 2) Arrange for at least 3 letters of reference and provide a brief biographical sketch of the nominee.
- 3) Submit 4 copies of all nomination materials to:
Excellence in Education Awards
PO Box 11248
Eugene, OR 97440

All materials must be received by June 3.

Nominee Information

Name _____

Title _____

Work Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Overview Information

Which DI programs is the nominee currently teaching/supervising?

Which DI programs has the nominee previously taught? _____

Type of students currently teaching _____

Type of students previously taught _____

Awards, Citations, or Recognitions

Please list any official recognition of the nominee's contribution to educational performance



2026 Wesley Becker Excellent School Award Nomination Form

Procedure

- 1) Complete both sides of this form. Use extra pages as needed. You may also complete this form online at <https://bit.ly/Becker-Award-2026>
- 2) Arrange for at least 3 letters of support of the nominated school.
- 3) Submit 4 copies of all nomination material to:
Excellence in Education Awards
PO Box 11248
Eugene, OR 97440

All materials must be received by June 3.

Nominee Information

Name of School _____

Name of Principal _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Overview Information

How many students in the nominated school are using DI programs? _____

How many grade levels in the nominated school are using DI programs? _____

How many years has the school been using DI programs? _____

Programs

Please list the DI programs the nominated school uses.

Awards, Citations, or Recognitions

Please list any official recognition of the nominee's contribution to educational performance



Rationale

Please explain why you believe the nominated school deserves to receive an Excellent School Award. Please provide any relevant student performance data. Use extra pages as needed.

Nominator Information

Name _____

Title _____

Work Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Due Date

Nominations must be received by June 3. Recipients will be notified by June 15. Send your nomination packet "Return Receipt Requested."



The Carnine-McRoberts Student Improvement Award

The Carnine-McRoberts Student Improvement Award is named in memory of the parents of Doug and Linda Carnine. It is given to a student who has demonstrated remarkable academic success with DI. Teachers submit nominations. The winner, selected by Doug and Linda, will be presented with a plaque and a \$1000 cash award. The nominating school will also receive a \$1000 award.

“Outstanding improvement” can be behavioral, academic, or both.

Procedure

- 1) Complete this form or fill out the form online at <https://bit.ly/Carnine-Award-2026>
- 2) Submit a written statement of the nominee’s Outstanding Improvement. Include any letters of support.
- 3) Submit 4 copies of all nomination material to:

*Carnine-McRoberts Student Improvement Award
PO Box 11248
Eugene, OR 97440*

All materials must be received by June 3.

Nominee Information

Name _____ School _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Relationship to Nominator: (teacher, parent, aide) _____

Parent Name _____ Telephone _____

Nominator Information

Name _____ Title _____

Work Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Telephone: Work _____ Home _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Due Date

Nominations must be received by June 3. Recipients will be notified by June 15.
Send your nomination packet “Return Receipt Requested.”

