

Dance Educator Award

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the IADMS Dance Educator Award honors an outstanding educator or teacher who meaningfully integrates dance medicine and science into their teaching practice. Recipients of this award demonstrate a clear commitment to evidence-informed pedagogy, using scientific principles to shape their teaching strategies, content, and overall approach. Managed by the IADMS Professional Development & Recognition Committee, this award recognizes educators and teachers who, through their work, inspire and positively influence the next generation of dancers and dance educators.

The award recognizes a dance educator/teacher who:

- Thoughtfully integrates dance science and research into their teaching practice.
- Grounds their training approach or system of training on a robust knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology, and positive wellbeing.
- Balances artistic and pedagogical objectives, within an evidence-based framework, and continually evaluates and evolves their dance teaching practice.
- Demonstrate progressive and innovative thinking in their teaching - challenging and evolving traditional methods when appropriate.
- Inspires students and colleagues with their understanding, holistic teaching approach, and integration of dance science and research within their chosen dance genres and fields.
- Prioritizes the holistic wellbeing of dancers, fostering a safe and supportive environment - physically, emotionally, and psychologically.
- Shows a sustained commitment to advancing the fields of dance, dance science, and the mission of IADMS.

Responses to the nomination questions will inform the review process and may also be featured in future IADMS promotional materials.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Anyone may submit a nomination by completing the [IADMS Dance Educator Award Nominations Form](#) by the deadline of June 1. The DEA nominations form includes questions about the impact and influence the nominee has had on you as a colleague, dancer, or learner; evidence of the nominee's ability to integrate and implement dance science/research in their teaching practice; examples of the nominees innovative and progressive pedagogical approach; and specifics on the nominee's approach to prioritizing wellbeing and safeguarding in the classroom.

The submission deadline is June 1.

For inquiries, please contact ProfDevelopment.Recognition@iadms.org.

JUDGING & SELECTION PROCESS

- A **panel of judges**, including representatives from and selected by the IADMS Professional Development & Recognition Committee, will review submissions.

- Current members of the IADMS Professional Development & Recognition Committee and Board of Directors are **ineligible to nominate or be nominated** for this award¹.
- The nominee may be contacted to provide further supporting information, based on the award criteria, upon request by the panel of judges.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- ✔ **Relevance & Impact** – How well the nominee’s pedagogical approach aligns with IADMS’ mission and the criteria of the award.
- ✔ **Evidence-Based Content** – Examples of integration and implementation of sound dance medicine and science research into practice.

AWARD & RECOGNITION

Prize: The winner will receive a **complimentary 1-year IADMS membership**.

The winner will be announced **via IADMS social media and during the Awards Ceremony at the Annual Conference**. Attendance at the conference is not required to win. IADMS reserves the right to publish submitted nominations on its website and use them for promotional purposes.

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

¹ Current IADMS Committee and Board members can be found on the IADMS website, www.iadms.org, on the Our Story page.