



CHICANOS
POR LA CAUSA

Esperanza

Teacher Awards

Nominate a Teacher to Receive a \$5,000 Cash Award and a Stipend for your School!

A teacher is one of the most important and lasting influences in a child's life. CPLC, along with its corporate and community partners, established the Esperanza Teacher Awards to recognize the change teachers make in their students. In particular, this award recognizes the special dedication of teachers working with students in low-income communities. Translated into English, "Esperanza" means "Hope," and so this prestigious event celebrates outstanding educators who are the hope for future generations.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Any teacher, school colleague, or principal from an accredited education institution may nominate an educator who meets the criteria below to be an Esperanza Teacher Award winner. A total of four teachers will be selected by a panel of educators and community leaders. In addition to winning this prestigious distinction, each of the four award recipients will receive a **\$5,000 cash award plus a \$2,500 stipend to their respective school.**

The awards will be presented at an in-person **luncheon on Friday, May 2nd** and shared via a 2-week social media campaign following the award ceremony.

NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

Any full-time certified teacher working in Arizona at a state-accredited public school or school operating under the Bureau of Indian Education is eligible for nomination.

Additionally, nominees must:

- Spend the majority (over 50%) of their teaching assignment in direct instruction to students.
- Teach any grade Pre-K-12th (or combination) in Arizona. Teachers may work in any content area, including Special Education, P.E., the Arts, etc.
- Have completed at least six (6) full years as a fully-certified classroom teacher at the time the application is submitted with the most recent three years in Arizona. Note: Years of student teaching or apprenticeship do not count toward this requirement.
- Be a full-time teacher and plan to continue in an active teaching status through school year 2024-2025.
- Work primarily with low-income students.

**ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 BY 5:00PM**

Feel free to contact us via email (Cathy.Keppel@CPLC.org) or phone (602.257.6759) with questions regarding eligibility.

PRESENTED BY



NOMINATION FORM

Please include the following in your nomination package:

1. General Candidate Information Form

2. Nomination Essay

40 points

Please write an in-depth essay (2,000 word min., 3,000 word max.) to include:

- i. Classroom Impact 10 points
How the nominee's work and passion for teaching benefits students.
- ii. Professional Leadership 5 points
How the nominee's impact on fellow educators improves the teaching environment.
- iii. Community Involvement 10 points
Participation/support in the broader community—emphasis on low-income communities.
- iv. Obstacles Overcome 10 points
Obstacles the nominee has overcome to be where he/she is today.
- v. Personal Development/Growth 5 points
Nominee's continued development to improve their positive impact.

3. Letter(s) of Recommendation

5 points

Nomination **MUST** include a letter of recommendation from nominee's school principal (even if the nominee's principal submits the application and/or writes the nomination essay). Additional letters of recommendation from school counselor, peer, principal, or superintendent may be included as well.

Total: 45 points

Please submit nominations via email or USPS:

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc
Attn: Event Marketing Team
1112 E. Buckeye Road; Phoenix, AZ 85034
Email: Cathy.Keppel@CPLC.org

**For more information, please call
Cathy Higuera Keppel at (602) 257-6759.**



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POR LA
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GENERAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Name of Teacher _____
(Nominee)

Nominee Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Name of School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Superintendent _____

School District _____

Name of Nominator _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

How did you hear about the Esperanza Awards? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Mainstream (English) Media
- ☐ Spanish Media
- ☐ Television Station
- ☐ Print Media
- ☐ Radio Station
- ☐ Online
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Referral





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It's time to honor your favorite teachers!

Nominations are now open for Chicanos Por La Causa's 28th Annual **Esperanza Teacher Awards**, presented by SRP.

The Esperanza Teacher Awards recognize four outstanding educators and their impact on low income communities. In addition to winning this prestigious distinction, each of the four award recipients will receive a **\$5,000 cash award plus a \$2,500 stipend to their respective school.**

Attached is a description of the Esperanza Teacher Awards along with the nomination form. Please **forward this information to all the schools in your district.** We wish to extend this opportunity to as many teachers as possible across Arizona.

The application due date is **Thursday, March 26, 2026, by 5:00pm.** All applications are peer nominated and must come from a principal, teacher, or other faculty member.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cathy Higuera Keppel, Director of Events & Special Projects, at **(602) 257-6759** or by email at **cathy.keppel@cplc.org.**

