CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

2026 Edna V. Folger Outstanding Teacher Award

SIHO Insurance Services, the IU Columbus Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Community Education Coalition are accepting nominations for the 2026 Edna V. Folger Outstanding Teacher Award. The award will be announced at the 2026 Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.

What is the Edna V. Folger Outstanding Teacher Award?

## Edna Folger set the early standard for teachers. In her honor, the award was designed to raise awareness about the immeasurable influence teachers have on their students and to recognize the image of teachers as important community role models. Established by Arvin Industries and now sponsored by SIHO Insurance Services, the award includes a monetary stipend, an individual award from the IU Columbus Center for Teaching and Learning, and the recipient’s name will be added to a permanent plaque located in the Columbus Learning Center.

##  Who is eligible to receive the award?

## Any full-time elementary or secondary school teacher or educator working at a public, private, or parochial school in Bartholomew County is eligible to receive the award. Classroom, special education, or special subject teachers; certified educators; counselors; and administrators are all eligible.

How do I nominate a teacher?

## Any individual or group may nominate a classroom teacher or educator to receive this award. Nominations should include biographical information, reasons for nomination, letters of recommendation, and support materials. Nomination instructions are available from the IU Columbus Center for Teaching and Learning, the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation Administrative Offices, and in the main office of schools throughout Bartholomew County. **The deadline for nominations is 4 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026.** Nomination forms may also be downloaded at [go.iu.edu/columbus-folger-award](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flink.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3Du001.Dw9OhPbS3iF-2FmEC7lDIGm6nSVl03jFO7tbcW7hSIHuXDXle-2BQ6mAsFF5yp2kuayZV9H2kyzV9ufjbv4F72amHA-3D-3Dwnuk_TpFPsAqFBNFSgV-2FiON9RVk0DHUV6pN0xTCiQ8LcfwICk6H1cQ43Z8HI6u0StwayLEuGjU6S2VKLlioMRHU0GuTpFKwom5X7xfyqUvUp3F9Lq7-2Bt-2B1rGqiAQaTtrrvCNhqTjBAo5L9AcM6uhTg1UMvvF4SzXEnGOe3Iy4uHpL-2BMOZwV8HKeEmCuXCEIf0x6VTjDaIjfon40lHxjA2NZYdukxE32E1tyXsnb-2FjAhdTwLG0YhLfnvkPHp1iHC2lYCE0UXS-2FcEJ0AMmQQcqd3jE-2BnVanJoTRAmwiXuJJMe4JBhSMC-2FbgRfHxORkWFnesWiWrKvBIc9KPzdD67K73sc-2BMljJLVdczLgCFv8ZFRDMK9k0eVKrLe02gexMYEC2qXdM6&data=05%7C02%7Cmvannahm%40iu.edu%7Cc9914a75d78c445f1f5a08dce9ef4994%7C1113be34aed14d00ab4bcdd02510be91%7C0%7C0%7C638642461340326374%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sT8xbnwT9WRWMwSsV1b1RWxmqVG0hOHzedNl6CtmpPo%3D&reserved=0).

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| **Edna V. Folger Outstanding Teacher Award Recipients** |
| ***1983*** | Shirley Lyster, Columbus North High School  |  | ***2005*** | Jack P. Young, Columbus East High School |
| ***1984*** | Marie Moore, Schmitt Elementary School |  | ***2006*** | Donna Nicholson, St. Bartholomew Catholic School  |
| ***1985*** | Delores Strietelmeier, St. Peter’s Lutheran School |  | ***2007*** | Denise Briner-Richardson, Columbus North High School |
| ***1986*** | Joseph F. Dutton, Columbus East High School |  | ***2008*** | Linda Coggin, Lincoln Elementary School |
| ***1987*** | Rachel Stoner, Columbus East High School |  | ***2009*** | Lynn Sparks, Columbus Signature Academy-Lincoln |
| ***1988*** | Mary Ann Heise, Columbus North High School |  | ***2010*** | Kim Green, Columbus North High School |
| ***1989*** | Candace Taff Carr, Richards Elementary School |  | ***2011*** | Janeen Blomenberg, Hauser Jr.-Sr. High School  |
| ***1990*** | Karen Lion, Northside Middle School |  | ***2012*** | Mary Knight, Parkside Elementary School |
| ***1991*** | James Zeiger, Smith Elementary School |  | ***2013*** | Milly Harden, Richards Elementary School |
| ***1992*** | Eugene Foldenauer, Columbus North High School |  | ***2014*** | Kathryn Strickland, Southside Elementary School |
| ***1993*** | James L. Nay, Columbus East High School |  | ***2015*** | Tammie LeClerc, Northside Middle School |
| ***1994*** | Margaret Bottorff, Clifty Creek Elementary School  |  | ***2016*** | Mike Riley, C4 Columbus Area Career Connection |
| ***1995*** | Barbara Johnson, Hope Elementary School |  | ***2017*** | Kristen Chitty, Columbus Signature Academy - Fodrea |
| ***1996*** | Janice Montgomery, Southside Elementary School |  | ***2018*** | Michelle Burnett, Columbus East High School |
| ***1997*** | Norma Flodder, McDowell Adult Education Center  |  | ***2019*** | Karen Nading, Columbus East High School & C4 |
| ***1998*** | Wanda Siebert, Hauser Jr.-Sr. High School  |  | ***2020*** | Lori Cash, Columbus Signature Academy-Lincoln |
| ***1999*** | Connie Yeaton, Clifty Creek Elementary School |  | ***2021*** | Peggy Myers, Columbus East High School |
| ***2000*** | Don Schmidt, Jefferson Education Center |  | ***2022*** | Jennifer Ryshavy, Taylorsville Elementary School |
| ***2001*** | Greg Lewis, Columbus East High School |  | ***2023*** | Angela Ginder, Rockcreek Elementary School |
| ***2002*** | Victor Fields, Columbus East High School |  | ***2024*** | Mindy Summers, Central Middle School |
| ***2003*** | Chuck Grimes, Southside Elementary School |  | ***2025*** | Jim Pfaffenberger, Columbus North High School |
| ***2004*** | Libby Arthur, Columbus North High School |  | ***2026*** |  |

Where can I obtain more information?
For more information, contact Marsha VanNahmen at 812.375.7576 or mvannahm@iu.edu or visit

[go.iu.edu/columbus-folger-award](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flink.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com%2Fls%2Fclick%3Fupn%3Du001.Dw9OhPbS3iF-2FmEC7lDIGm6nSVl03jFO7tbcW7hSIHuXDXle-2BQ6mAsFF5yp2kuayZV9H2kyzV9ufjbv4F72amHA-3D-3Dwnuk_TpFPsAqFBNFSgV-2FiON9RVk0DHUV6pN0xTCiQ8LcfwICk6H1cQ43Z8HI6u0StwayLEuGjU6S2VKLlioMRHU0GuTpFKwom5X7xfyqUvUp3F9Lq7-2Bt-2B1rGqiAQaTtrrvCNhqTjBAo5L9AcM6uhTg1UMvvF4SzXEnGOe3Iy4uHpL-2BMOZwV8HKeEmCuXCEIf0x6VTjDaIjfon40lHxjA2NZYdukxE32E1tyXsnb-2FjAhdTwLG0YhLfnvkPHp1iHC2lYCE0UXS-2FcEJ0AMmQQcqd3jE-2BnVanJoTRAmwiXuJJMe4JBhSMC-2FbgRfHxORkWFnesWiWrKvBIc9KPzdD67K73sc-2BMljJLVdczLgCFv8ZFRDMK9k0eVKrLe02gexMYEC2qXdM6&data=05%7C02%7Cmvannahm%40iu.edu%7Cc9914a75d78c445f1f5a08dce9ef4994%7C1113be34aed14d00ab4bcdd02510be91%7C0%7C0%7C638642461340326374%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sT8xbnwT9WRWMwSsV1b1RWxmqVG0hOHzedNl6CtmpPo%3D&reserved=0) .

