



ASSOCIATION OF TEACHER EDUCATORS

John P. Sikula Unit Awards

Award Description

The **John P. Sikula Unit Awards** recognize and honor the outstanding achievements of ATE state and regional units. Sponsored by Past President John P. Sikula, this program highlights the essential role units play in advancing the mission and goals of the Association of Teacher Educators.

Through these awards, ATE provides visibility and distinction to units that demonstrate **innovation, collaboration, membership growth, leadership, and capacity building** in support of high-quality teacher education.

Award History

The Sikula Awards Program was first endorsed by the ATE Council of Unit Presidents, the Association Development Standing Committee, and the Delegate Assembly at the 1998 ATE Annual Meeting. Proposed by John P. Sikula, ATE President (1989–90), the program was later sustained through the creation of a memorial fund.

In 2007, ATE's Leadership Foundation for Teacher Education (LFTE) Advisory Council established a permanent fund, seeded with a pledge of \$20,000 from Dr. Sikula's estate and donors, to ensure ongoing support. The awards were revised in 2025 to emphasize recognition of exceptional unit contributions that demonstrate innovation, collaboration, and meaningful alignment with the ATE mission.

Eligibility and Expectations

- Any **state or regional unit** of ATE may apply.
- Each unit may apply for **only one award per year**.
- Restrictions:
 - A **Unit Development Award** may be earned only once every **3 years**.
 - The **Outstanding Unit Award** may be earned only once every **6 years**.
 - Units must first meet the criteria of a **healthy unit** before being eligible for the Outstanding Unit Award.
- Award recipients are expected to **register for and attend** the ATE Annual Meeting during the year they are honored.

Number and Category of Awards

1. **Unit Development Awards** (3 categories)
 - *Innovative Programs and Services*
 - *Membership Growth and Engagement*
 - *National Engagement and Leadership*

Units may apply in one category only; the same unit may not win the same category more than once in three years.
2. **Outstanding Unit Award** (1 award annually)
 - Recognizes a unit excelling in **all three categories**: Innovative Programs and Services; Membership Growth and Engagement; and National Engagement and Leadership.
 - May be earned only once every six years.

Nomination and Application Process

- The awards cover accomplishments from **January 1 – December 31** of the application year.
- Submissions must clearly document evidence for the selected award category.
- Page limits:
 - **Unit Development Awards**: Maximum 3 pages (excluding appendices).
 - **Outstanding Unit Award**: Maximum 12 pages (excluding appendices).

Required Materials

1. Completed application addressing award criteria
2. Supporting documentation (appendices optional)
3. For Outstanding Unit Award applications: evidence addressing each of the three categories and confirmation of meeting at least **10 of the 13 “healthy unit” criteria**

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by the **Council of Past Presidents**.

Evaluation Criteria

Unit Development Awards (evaluate selected category):

- **Innovation in Programs and Services**: Creative approaches, new technologies, original initiatives, inclusion of diverse voices
- **Membership Growth and Engagement**: Recruitment strategies, growth/retention trends, meaningful engagement opportunities
- **National Engagement and Leadership**: Alignment with ATE mission, service on ATE committees/governance, national-level contributions, use of Teacher Educator Standards

Outstanding Unit Award (evaluate all three categories):

- Must demonstrate strength in **all three performance areas**
- Must meet at least **10 of the 13 “healthy unit” criteria**, including functioning governance, membership activities, annual reporting, and evidence of national engagement

Unit Health Checklist

Units applying for the Outstanding Unit Award must meet at least 10 of the 13 criteria for a healthy unit in order to apply for this award. There are no weights given to the performance criteria in this category. The unit either meets these criteria or it does not.

Criterion	Y / N
Bylaws and a constitution have been approved	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Unit officers are national members of ATE	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
An Annual Report has been filed with the ATE National Office	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
At least one conference or program is conducted annually	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Unit meets at least once a year for official business	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
At least half of the delegates or alternates attended the last Delegate Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Public school and/or higher education personnel are visibly involved in unit leadership roles	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
At least one member attended the most recent National Meeting or Summer Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Unit standing committees are functioning	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of recruitment and retention of state/national members is presented	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Membership recruitment activities are documented	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Students are visibly involved in unit activities	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic communications are used to build unit engagement and support	<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>

Timeline and Notification

- **Submission Deadline:** September 15th at 11:59 PM (EST)
 - **Notification of Award:** TBD
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How to Apply

- **Submit application material through the awards submission linked below:**
[Awards Submission Form](#)
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Questions

Please direct inquiries to: info@ate1.org