Excellence in Education Elizabeth Russel Belford Founders Award

NOMINATION TIMELINE

1 November 2026–1 March 2027

NOTIFICATION

Award recipients will be notified in July 2027.

PRESENTATION

All awards will be presented at Sigma's Biennial Convention.

PURPOSE

The Founders Awards offer homage to the six founding nurses of Sigma and the director of nursing at Indiana University for their insights in 1922 that advanced scholarship, leadership, research, and practice. This award recognizes extraordinary excellence in education and celebrates inclusive educational experiences: nursing, interprofessional, practice, community health, and/or public awareness. **Sigma membership is required.**

ELIGIBILITY

All active Sigma members worldwide are eligible to be nominated for this award. **Members may not self-nominate; any self-nominations will be disqualified.** Current Sigma International Board of Directors, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are not eligible. Nominees can receive only one award per biennium. Nominees can accept only one nomination per biennium. Recipients from 2023 and 2025 are not eligible to receive the same award in 2027.

CRITERIA

Nominations should show evidence of meeting a majority of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates excellence in teaching
2. Creates and/or uses innovative teaching/learning methods
3. Advances nursing education through clarifying, refining, and/or expanding the knowledge base of nursing
4. Promotes a theory/research base for nursing curricula and nursing practice
5. Influences scholarly development in nursing education, practice, and/or research through effects of teaching
6. Impacts the professional practice of nursing and the public's image of nursing through excellence of teaching

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Supporting documents required below must address the criteria. Entries that do not meet the criteria and requirements below will be disqualified. A complete online nomination consists of:

- Online entry form
- Supporting narrative, from the nominator (1-2 pages)
- Two letters of support from diverse sources supporting the criteria (interprofessional colleague, supervisor, coworker, etc.—excluding nominator)
- Nominee's curriculum vitae
- Letter of acceptance—A statement from the nominee accepting the nomination and agreeing to attend Sigma's biennial convention if selected as the award recipient
- Supporting documentation—Materials or summaries that provide direct evidence of meeting the award criteria (not to exceed 10 pages). This includes

videos, writing samples, articles, photos, etc. This is an opportunity to expand on the summary provided by the supporting narrative. Additional letters of support will not be considered.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, contact awards@sigmanursing.org.