Excellence in Education Award
Elizabeth Russell Belford Founders Award

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. **Sigma membership is required.**
All active members and chapters of Sigma are eligible to submit a nomination.

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.

CRITERIA
Nomination 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 the 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 should address a majority of the above criteria. Entries that do not meet the criteria and requirements below will be disqualified. A complete online nomination consists of:

- Online entry form and payment
- Supporting narrative (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 – Statement from the nominee agreeing to attend Sigma’s Biennial Convention if selected

NOMINATION TIMELINE
1 November 2018 – 1 March 2019

ENTRY FEE:
US $50

The fee structure for nominations outside the US is set according to World Bank classifications based on per-capita income designated as low, middle, and high.

NOTIFICATION
Award recipients will be notified in July 2019.

PRESENTATION
All awards will be presented at Sigma’s **45th Biennial Convention** in Washington, DC, USA.

PAST RECIPIENTS
*View a brief biography of past recipients online.*

CONTACT
For further information, visit [International Awards](#) or contact Kelsey Van Wyk.