

*Testimonials from past Teacher Awards Nominees and Finalists*

Lafayette Education Foundation & Sponsors,

Many thanks to the foundation and participating sponsors for a most rewarding and exciting evening. It was a first class event from start of finish. It was an honor to be chosen as a finalist and you certainly made me feel very special. I appreciate the cash gift and gift certificates. What a neat surprise! I will treasure the memories of the evening, always.

*Finalist*

Dear LEF Team,

I want you to know how very much this recognition means to me to be nominated for the LEF award. I have taught high school art & algebra in Louisiana for 25 years. This is the first whisper of recognition that I have received. So it means so very much. Students rarely show gratitude. Please keep up the work and encourage our dedicated teachers.

*Nominee*

Dear Becky, Kimberly & Charlene,

It's been a very long week of trying to behave as a "regular" person again, but I wouldn't take anything for the experience and honor of last Thursday night. We have lived all over the country and I have been an educator or parent of a student in all eleven states, but I've never seen such amazing support for education – for teachers. I know the pinning, the publicity, the sparkly and smooth ceremony would not have happened without your imagination and hard work. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

*Finalist*

Dear LEF,

The LEF Teacher Awards each year is amazing. The whole experience of this year's LEF Teacher Awards was outstanding for me. I want to thank each of you for the honor of being recognized in such a special way. I truly felt like royalty, not that I know what that's like, but surely it must be like this. I have received tons of well wishes and congratulations. This has allowed me to pay tribute to the profession of teaching, elaborate on my FACS discipline, and share my students' outstanding community service work. This was an unanticipated bonus of this honor. There is no other time that I was honored as a teacher that the entire program made you feel so very blessed. The beautiful awards, the local business gift certificates, the fleur de leis board, the embroidered bag and the lovely reception before and after was so nice. Thank you for all the efforts that goes into soliciting sponsors to support LEF, the entertainment, the speaker, the caterer, the limo ride, the spouse's tux. You all have just thought of everything. The pin patrol is so exciting in itself. The pin is a beautiful reminder of touching student's lives. I am proud to wear mine. The fact that the business world is behind the whole experience helps to validate teachers. I had no idea how special a finalist was going to be, but it has put a spring in my step over the last three months and I know that the feeling will be with me forever!

*Finalist*