

# CHARTER INSTITUTE AT ERSKINE

# 2025



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PAY TO THE ORDER OF MARY ELIZABETH (M.E.) FARMER \$ 1,000.00

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 0/100

FOR 24-25 Nathan Yon Institute Teacher of the Year Charter Institute at Erskine

# AWARDS BANQUET GUIDELINES

# ROLE OF THE INSTITUTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Charter Institute at Erskine Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador for the Institute as well as all schools and students within the Institute. The Teacher of the Year will serve for one school year and is a leader and role model for all Institute teachers.

- The Charter Institute at Erskine (Institute) Teacher of the Year (TOY) is a classroom teacher in a public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, middle, or secondary school with a professional certificate. This includes all subject area teachers, vocational teachers, school librarians, school counselors, curriculum resource teachers, teacher specialists, speech-language pathologists, and lead teachers who are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Active teaching status means that the teacher is planning to continue teaching (e.g. not retiring or moving into an administrative position the following year).
- The TOY is a continuing-contract teacher and has direct contact with students a minimum of three hours a day, on average, and must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate.
  - Schools may nominate uncertified TOYs with the understanding that they will not be selected as Institute Teacher of the Year. TOYs who are not willing to compete at the state level for Institute recognition may be nominated with the understanding that they may not be selected as Institute Teacher of the Year.
- The TOY collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a culture of innovation and excellence.
- The TOY may work with the Institute throughout the year on special projects or professional development to promote and develop great teachers and the charter schools they serve.
- The TOY will attend the CERRA State Teacher of the Year Forum Conference, which is usually held in November, and return to share the experience with all teachers in the Institute schools.
- The TOY agrees to complete the State TOY application process as the Institute's TOY and may consult previous TOYs for input and suggestions for their application.
- The TOY will serve as a judge for the next year's Institute TOY and present the award to the new TOY.

***Ms. Sharmaine Roaden of South Cyber Academy of South Carolina is named the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year.***



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTION PROCESS

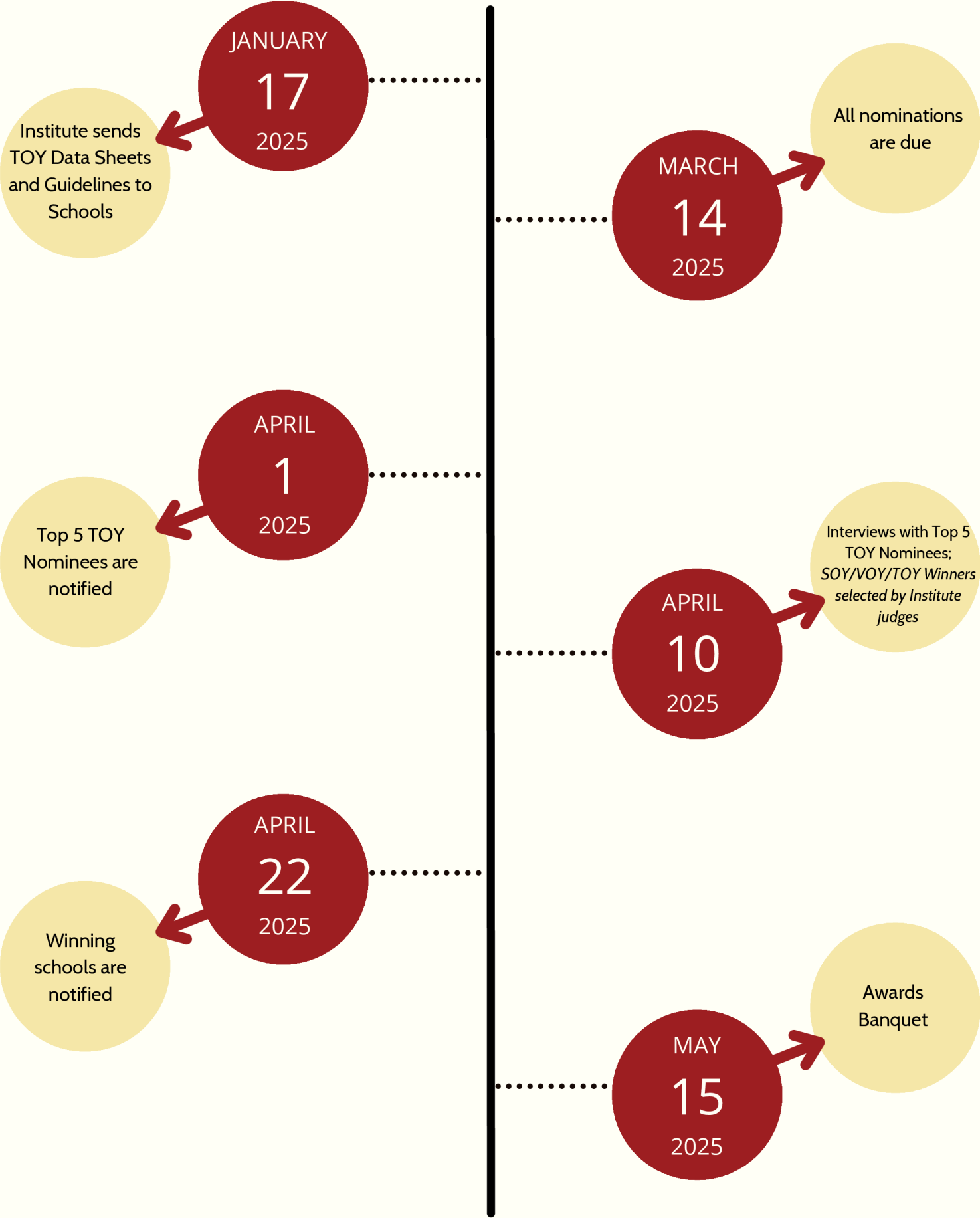
- Notices are sent to schools early each calendar year regarding the Teacher of the Year application timeline.
- The schools submit their TOY data sheets and the teachers' completed portfolios in mid-March. Schools with more than one grade span may submit one teacher in each category: Elementary, Middle, and High.
- All identifying information is redacted from the portfolios and each portfolio is assigned a number to maintain confidentiality and avoid partiality.
- The portfolios are then distributed to judges along with score sheets.
- The judges have approximately a week to review the portfolios and submit the score sheets.
- The top five teachers with the highest scores will be notified and must then participate in a face-to-face interview with the judges.
- Each of the top five teachers will be asked the same questions during their interview.
- The judges will score the interviews, privately discuss the interviews, and select the winner.
- The winner will be announced at the Awards Banquet and will serve as the Institute TOY for the following school year.

*See the next page for this year's timeline.*



***Ms. Megan Patterson of Belton Preparatory Academy is named the 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year.***

# INSTITUTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROCESS TIMELINE



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR INTERVIEW FORMAT

- The top five finalists, along with their school leaders, will be notified and an interview schedule will be sent to them.
- Each of the five teachers will come to the Institute office to be interviewed by a panel of judges.
- Each one will have a specific amount of time for the interview, where they will introduce themselves and give an overview of their educational philosophy and perspectives.
- The judges will ask each finalist the same questions and give a score for each one.
- After all interviews are held, the judges' scores will be tallied and an Institute Teacher of the Year chosen.
- This teacher will serve as the Institute Teacher of the Year during the following school year.
- The Institute Teacher of the Year will be a secret until the Awards Banquet.

[Click here to view the State TOY information](#) or scan the QR code.



Contact Katie Graybill at [kgraybill@erskinecharters.org](mailto:kgraybill@erskinecharters.org) or (803) 830-0719.

***Ms. Laura Ferguson of South Carolina Connections Academy is named the 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year.***



## STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The Institute Student of the Year is selected by the same panel of judges who select the Teacher of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year. The Student of the Year is a student who has demonstrated leadership, achieved academic excellence, or overcome great obstacles. Schools may nominate one SOY per school level (one per elementary school, middle school, and high school,).

*Consider the following when submitting your nomination.*

- *What qualities make this student stand out from the rest of his/her peers?*
- *How has the student taken a negative circumstance and turned it into something positive?*
- *How has this student taken advantage of the opportunities afforded to them by a charter school?*
- *How is this student leaving his/her mark on your school?*



***Winson Cheung,***  
***2023-2024 Middle School Student of the Year***

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Institute Volunteer of the Year is selected by the same panel of judges who select the Teacher of the Year and the Students of the Year. The Volunteer of the Year is a parent, community member, or someone otherwise associated with your school who has generously devoted their time and resources to bettering charter schools in South Carolina.

*Consider the following when submitting your nomination.*

- *How has this volunteer made the school community a better place?*
- *What impact has his/her time and resources have on your school?*
- *What makes this person a role model to your school's students?*



***Christopher Gordon,***  
***2023-2024 Volunteer of the Year***

# AWARDS BANQUET CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOLS

Nominate a Teacher of the Year for each category (if applicable).

Elementary School

Middle School

High School



*Remember that Teacher of the Year nominees must complete their own applications including a headshot, biography, narrative, and letters of support. Full requirements are listed on the application.*

Nominate a Student of the Year for each category (if applicable).

Elementary School

Middle School

High School

Nominate a Volunteer of the Year.

Notify your teacher(s), student(s), and volunteer that they've been nominated. Consider making it a celebration!

Share the link to register with your team and your school's nominees and register by May 1.

Keep an eye out for an email from the Institute about registration, nomination status, etc.

Attend the Awards Banquet on May 15!

MARCH

14

2025

SOY/VOY/TOY  
Winners  
selected by  
Institute judges

APRIL

22

2025

Awards  
Banquet

All nominations are  
due

Schools with  
winning  
SOY/VOY/TOY are  
notified

APRIL

10

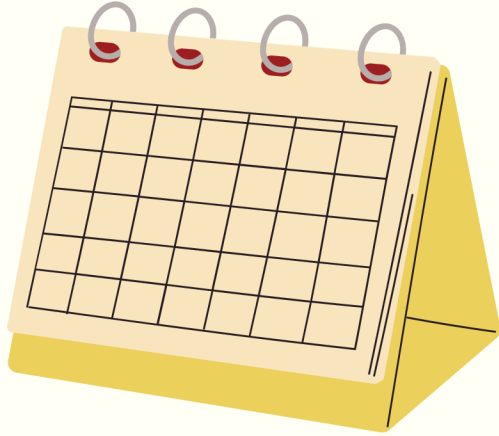
2025

MAY

15

2025

# 2025 AWARDS BANQUET INFORMATION



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Evening

Columbia, SC

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE STUDENTS, TEACHERS,  
AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR](#)

Nominations Due by March 14

## CONTACT

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# CHARTER INSTITUTE AT ERSKINE

# 2025



Ms. Anne Brown  
2018-2019  
Royal Live Oaks Academy



Ms. Julie Phillips  
2019-2020  
South Carolina Virtual  
Charter School



Ms. Katie Bell  
2020-2021  
Lowcountry Leadership  
Charter School



Ms. Laura Ferguson  
2021-2022  
South Carolina  
Connections Academy



Ms. Megan Patterson  
2022-2023  
Belton Preparatory  
Academy



Ms. Sharmaine Roaden  
2023-2024  
Cyber Academy of  
South Carolina



Ms. M.E. Farmer  
2024-2025  
American Leadership Academy  
Lexington

# TEACHER OF THE YEAR HALL OF FAME