

January 2026

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. NCTE represents literacy educators across all educational contexts, including early childhood, elementary, middle, secondary, and college. We have developed proven resources to advance teachers' expertise in developing students as readers, writers, critical thinkers, and analysts of their own learning.

Each year, NCTE recognizes early career educators through the Early Career Educator of Color Leadership Award Program. The specific purpose of this award is to provide early career teachers of color a national forum for professional collaboration and development through attending the ECEOC Institute (year one) and presenting a session at the NCTE Convention (year two). The general purpose of the award is to support teachers of color as they build accomplished teaching careers as active NCTE members.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be practicing pre-K to university-level literacy educators of color who are in the first five years of a paid teaching career and who aspire to build a career in literacy education.

Award recipients receive two years of support from an accomplished mentor who will help the scholarship recipient use NCTE resources to plan their leadership institute experience (year one) and to enhance professional growth. Recipients also receive an opportunity to present at the NCTE Convention (year two), opportunities to collaborate with NCTE leaders, and a plaque to recognize their participation. In addition, funds are provided for the scholarship recipient to attend leadership institute in year one (airfare, hotel, and meals) and the NCTE convention in year two (airfare, complimentary registration, three nights' lodging, and a \$50 per diem for three days. Note: The ECEOC Institute will be held in July 2026, and the site for the November 2027 Annual Convention will be announced in 2026.

To be eligible, early career educators must submit an application packet and provide a signature from a school principal/superintendent (pre-K to 12) or supervisor/dean/provost (university-level) confirming support of release time for up to two school days during the 2027-2028 school year to attend the NCTE Convention in a location to be announced (Nov. 18-20, 2027).

Name of Applicant: _____

School Name: _____

This is to confirm that _____ has support to participate fully in all of the benefits of the Early Career Educator of Color Leadership Award offered by NCTE.

Signature of School Principal or Supervisor: _____

Date: _____