

# Governor's Celebration of Innovation 2025 Teacher of the Year

The Governor's Celebration of Innovation (GCOI) Teacher of the Year (TOY) award for Arizona's top STEM or CTE teacher is hosted by the [Arizona Technology Council \(AzTechCouncil\)](#) and the [Arizona Commerce Authority](#). Teacher of the Year information can be found on educational organization websites, newsletters, social media, or other distribution methods, with attached instructions on how to apply. Self-nomination information and forms are available at [www.acesa.org](http://www.acesa.org).

## **Part I:** **Details/Awards/Rules & Regulations**

### **Details:**

Teachers of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) and Career & Technology Education (CTE) subjects in Arizona may submit a Self-nomination Entry Form (Part II) and a reflection of teaching style (Part III), as **email attachments to [toy@acesa.org](mailto:toy@acesa.org)**.

Other educators outside the STEM/CTE disciplines, who feel their background meets the requirements, may submit an application for special consideration.

Teacher of the Year award winners are evaluated and chosen by a selection committee administered by [Arizona Council of Engineering and Scientific Associations](#) (ACESA), which supports, promotes and coordinates programs and activities of the engineering and science associations within the state of Arizona through facilitated communication and leadership.

### **Awards:**

**(Subject to change if the Governor's Celebration of Innovation is virtual and not in person due to uncontrollable circumstances)**

The Teacher of the Year will receive:

- receive a cash award,
- receive complementary admission for four to the Governor's Celebration of Innovation,
- have a video made of you describing your teaching methods and philosophies, and
- be asked to attend and present a display board with text and pictures that demonstrates your teaching style.

Two teachers may be selected as Honorable Mention, and each will:

- receive a cash award,
- receive complementary admission to the Governor's Celebration of Innovation, and
- be asked to attend and present a display board with text and pictures that demonstrates your teaching style.

Cash award winners will be required to submit a current [IRS W-9 Form](#) to GCOI awards coordinator.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

1. The competition is open to all Arizona High School educators of STEM/CTE and/or Science/Technology related subjects.
  - a. Educators must be currently teaching in Arizona and have taught for at least three years in Arizona.
  - b. Teachers who have previously applied and did not receive an award may re-apply to be considered for the current year.
  - c. Teachers receiving an Honorable Mention award may re-apply to be considered for the current year.
  - d. Previous winners may re-apply on or after the fifth anniversary of having received the Teacher of the Year award to be considered for the current year.
2. Provide teacher information requested (Part II Form) and a self-reflection (Part III). (Note: Parts II & III are separate documents but should be submitted at the same time for a complete application.)
  - a. The documents must be able to be opened using Adobe Acrobat (.pdf).
  - b. The self-reflection (Part III) should:
    - i. be formatted as an 8 ½ X 11” document with single spacing, having a minimum of **12-point type** with **1” margins**.
    - ii. be **no longer than 4 pages**, penalty points may be assessed.
    - iii. be **concise & specific** when answering the questions – quantify results when/where possible.
    - iv. **not include the questions**, number your answers 1-9 in your document as to correlate your answers to the specific questions.
3. Entry deadline is **no later than midnight, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**; the deadline may be extended at the discretion of the judges, please check the [ACESA](#) website for updates.

Judging results will be provided to all applicants in late August via contact information provided. For the awardees, we will include information regarding the Governor’s Celebration of Innovation (GCOI) Award Showcase, to be held in late October or early November.