

## PATRICIA M. LARSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

### OVERVIEW

The Brookings School District is fortunate to have many exemplary teachers. The Patricia M. Larson Award for Excellence seeks to select the best representative of the many outstanding teachers in K-5 education. This award honors an individual as a teacher/mentor having great impact on children.

The Patricia M. Larson Fund provides an annual award of \$2,000 to a Brookings k-5 Elementary Teacher and a \$2,000 award to the school where the award winner is employed. This award is intended as a sign of appreciation and encouragement for ongoing teaching and learning. The use of funds is unrestricted.

*The Patricia M. Larson award is an on-going tribute in memory of Patricia M. Larson, who dedicated her life to children's education through her activities as a parent, educator, volunteer and philanthropist. After earning her degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Benedict, Patricia began her teaching career in Austin, Minnesota. In 1964, Patricia and her husband Dale, moved to Brookings where she spent 2 years teaching at Hillcrest Elementary. Among her many volunteer activities, Patricia was a member of PEO and taught catechism at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. She was also President of the Larson Foundation which founded the Children's Museum of South Dakota and has granted funding to numerous statewide projects focusing on childhood learning.*

### AWARD CRITERIA:

- Demonstrates exemplary enthusiasm and professional commitment towards children's learning
- Exhibits a genuine love of children and advocates for the best interest of students, addressing their emotional and developmental needs
- Creates a positive, supportive, respectful atmosphere for personal and academic achievement to flourish
- Respects and appreciates each student as an individual with unique abilities
- Employs a wide range of educational and scientific research in teaching-pulling the best out of each student.

# Nomination Process

Any Brookings Colleague, school administrator, student, parent, or community member may make a nomination.

Step one: Complete the nomination packet which will include:

- Nomination Form
- TWO letters of support which share personal observations of how the nominee demonstrates a commitment to excellence in teaching:
  - One from an employee of the Brookings School District and
  - One from a parent or student (current or former)

Step two: Submit the nomination packet either via email or USPS

- Email: [Kurt@koolbeanscoffee.net](mailto:Kurt@koolbeanscoffee.net)
- USPS:
  - Brookings Foundation
  - attn: Kurt Osborne
  - 1028 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - Brookings, SD. 57006

All nominations must be sent or postmarked no later than **April 1, 2023**

If you have any questions, call Kurt Osborne at 605-940-7524 or email at [kurt@koolbeanscoffee.net](mailto:kurt@koolbeanscoffee.net)

Patricia M. Larson Award for Excellence in Elementary Education  
Nomination Form

2022-2023 School Year

**Contact information of individual submitting this nomination:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years has this nominee taught in an elementary school: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this nominee a licensed teacher in the State of SD? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Describe why you decided to nominate this person and how they exemplify the five bullets within the Award Criteria (250-500 words)

List the community activities this nominee is or has been involved in (volunteer time, church or civic boards, projects, etc. . .)

**Information for the letters of support (include with this form)**

Letter one:

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter two:

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_