



## Sally Walker Distinguished Service Award

### Eligibility & Selection Procedures

The Illinois Association for Gifted Children presents the Distinguished Service Award to an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of gifted education and to the development of the organization.

To be eligible for the award, the nominee must have ten or more years of active service in the field of gifted education and show evidence of making major contributions with lasting impact on the field of gifted education. Current IAGC board members, committee members, and paid employees are not eligible for this award. The contributions to the field must have been ongoing and demonstrate a commitment over time.

The award recipient will be notified in January and recognized at the IAGC Annual Convention in February.

### Nomination Procedure

All nominations should be submitted to the IAGC Board of Directors by November 15. The IAGC Board of Directors will review the nominations and choose the award recipient at the January board meeting.

To nominate an individual, complete the online application by November 15:  
<https://iagc.wufoo.com/forms/wj32lum0pmpa9q/>

### Selection Criteria

#### 1. Evidence of contributions to the field of gifted education over time:

- Made a significant advocacy contribution resulting in change of policy at the state or national level
- Made significant legislative contribution at state or national level resulting in increased funding, mandates, teacher certification, or endorsement
- Served in an advisory capacity at the state or national level with demonstrated results

#### 2. Evidence of long-term service and continued contributions to IAGC over time:

- Has a successful history of leadership roles (i.e., committees, officer positions) over an extended period of time
- Created and coordinated initiatives that provided improved or expanded service to members of the organization. Examples could include coordinating special events,

- carrying out advocacy campaigns, or coordinating IAGC's annual convention
- Attended on a regular basis IAGC conventions and participated as a speaker or in other roles

**3. Evidence of long-term service to the field:**

- Demonstrated career-long involvement in gifted education
- Made a unique contribution to the field in a leadership role at the state level, such as working on state level committees or meeting with state officials to advocate for gifted education
- Made ongoing contribution to the field through journal articles, administration of a school for the gifted, or leadership positions in an organization
- Recognized for having an expertise in a particular area such as advocacy, curriculum, or program development, which benefits the field
- Presented at state and/or national conferences
- Served as a mentor to early leaders in the field

**Restrictions**

1. The nominee must have actively served the field for more than ten years and the IAGC for at least four years.
2. An individual may receive this award only once.