



Restaurant Industry Awards Recognizing the Role of Restaurants in Their Communities

Restaurants and foodservice businesses play an important role in opening doors of opportunity for people of all backgrounds and cultures and are central to improving their communities and supporting their neighbors.

Each year, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) honors restaurateurs and businesses that embody these values and principles through its three signature awards programs.

Restaurant Neighbor Award: Twenty years ago, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, together with founding partner American Express, created the Restaurant Neighbor Award to help honor restaurants in the field of outstanding community service and involvement and highlight the positive contributions restaurants make in their local communities. Three national winners receive \$10,000 each to support their community efforts and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to receive their award.

Faces of Diversity: Thirteen years ago, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and PepsiCo Foodservice created the Faces of Diversity award to raise awareness about the important role restaurants play in providing a ladder of opportunity for millions of Americans who have realized the American Dream through hard work and determination. Three national winners are flown to Washington, D.C. and honored with this award. A \$2,500 scholarship is also made in the name of each winner to a student pursuing a career in hospitality.

Ambassador of Hospitality: The Thad and Alice Eure Ambassador of Hospitality Award, sponsored by Ecolab, is the premier award bestowed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to an individual who has shown extraordinary achievement and exemplary leadership in the restaurant and hospitality industry. Consideration will be given to a nominee who serves as a company Chairperson, CEO, President or Senior Executive for his or her lifetime achievement in the hospitality industry.

Timeline

- August 1** Applications available online.
- August – Sept.** National Restaurant Association and NRAEF staff will promote the program through all communications channels. State Restaurant Associations (SRA) are encouraged to promote the program to their members and nominate candidates. Customizable marketing materials will also be available on to help states promote the program.
- October 7** **Public deadline for applications from restaurants.**
- For the Restaurant Neighbor Award, the NRAEF will send all received applications to the states to select the state winners.
- December** NRAEF convenes two distinct judging panel to select national winners for Faces of Diversity Award and Restaurant Neighbor Award.
- March 3** National winners are announced at awards dinner in Washington, D.C. National finalists are profiled on the NRAEF website.