

2026 NIE

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Tell us in 250 words or less how the nominee uses the Tampa Bay Times to enhance student learning and the learning environment with a newspaper-based lesson, activity or project.

GRAND PRIZE

- \$1,500 cash prize
- Grand prize plaque
- Tampa Bay Times prize pack
- Inclusion in the **2026 NIE Educator of the Year Teacher Guide**
- Invitation to the **2026 Florida Media Conference**
 - Reimbursement for conference lodging and travel
 - Optional opportunity to present to newspapers from around Florida

RUNNERS-UP

- \$300 cash prize
- Runner-up certificate
- Tampa Bay Times prize pack
- Inclusion in the **2026 NIE Educator of the Year Teacher Guide**



Scan the QR code to learn more.

Nominate yourself or a colleague. Administrators, supervisors and parents are also encouraged to nominate!

Entries accepted Jan. 1 – April 1, 2026.

Visit tampabay.com/nie and click on Educator of the Year for more information, official rules and to enter.

Eligibility: Educators (teachers, media specialists, paraprofessionals, etc.) of any grade and subject in public and private schools in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties are eligible to enter.



Kristinna Sanchez
 Science
 2025 Grand Prize Winner



Linda Cox
 Art
 2022 Grand Prize Winner



Melissa Ivy
 Media Specialist
 2025 Runner-Up



Brenda Curtwright
 Speech Pathologist
 2019 Honorable Mention



Rene Marquis
 Culinary Arts
 2018 Runner-Up