



## 2026 Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award

**Sponsored by:**  
**Southern Rural Development Center**

*The Southern Rural Development Center is pleased to announce that nominations are being sought for the Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award for 2026. The following provides specific information regarding this important award and the deadline date for nominations to be received. The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development area. The award consists of a plaque and \$500 stipend. The award is presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals and the awardee is featured on the SRDC's website and annual report.*

**Eligibility:** The nominee must meet the following conditions:

- Be currently employed by one of the 30 Land-Grant Universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region or retired within the last 12 months,
- Serve as an administrator, specialist or agent who has worked in the Extension community development area for at least 10 years at the state, multi-county and/or county levels, and
- Have an impressive portfolio of Extension-related programs and publications.

**About Bonnie Teater:** For 30 years, Bonnie Teater provided valuable support to the Southern Rural Development Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration through her dedication to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's Land-Grant Universities. She is currently enjoying retirement in Kentucky. To learn more: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/bonnie-teater-award>

### **Nomination Process:**

1. **Prepare the Primary Letter of Nomination:** A "Primary Letter of Nomination" is required from an Extension educator or administrator in the South (not the nominee) who has an excellent command of the accomplishments of the nominee. This letter should not exceed 4 single-spaced pages in length (using 12-point font and 1" margins) and should represent a concise summary of why the nominee is worthy of the award. The letter will serve as the centerpiece of the nomination process and should offer substantive evidence of the superior work that the nominee has achieved thus far during his/her Extension career. The primary nomination letter should include:
  - A description of the major community development-related achievements of the nominee over the course of his/her career, with special attention to the significant impact of the person's community development efforts at the local, state, Southern region, national, and/or international levels, with an emphasis on efforts that have regional and national impact;
  - Highlights of key community development products that have been developed by the nominee over his/her Extension career (i.e., curricula, fact sheets, websites, newsletters, articles, etc.) that have had an influence in shaping and enhancing community development work in their state, in the Southern region, and/or beyond;



- Other important and relevant professional activities/committees in which the nominee has been involved that have helped advance Extension community development work at the state, regional, national, and/or international levels.
2. Assemble Examples of Community Development Products: The individual who prepares the primary letter of nomination is encouraged to submit **up to** three community development-related products developed by the nominee that best exemplify the quality of that person's Extension work. ***Provide electronic versions of these products.***
  3. Obtain Three Support Letters (in addition to the primary letter of nomination): At least two and up to three letters of support from individuals who are knowledgeable of the nominee's Extension community development work, and who can affirm the significance of the person's career achievements in advancing community development work within various arenas (i.e., state, region, national, international), are strongly recommended. We encourage that letters be drawn from a variety of sources, such as a county Extension educator, an administrator, a colleague affiliated with another land-grant institution, a government agency representative, a policymaker, a community leader, or other appropriate individuals. Select the combination of support letters that makes the strongest case for the nominee's community development achievement. Each letter is limited to two pages, single space, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.
  4. Curriculum vitae: Obtain a curriculum vitae for the nominee to be included in the nomination packet. This document should be no more than 3 pages, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.
  5. Submit Entire Nomination Packet: The person preparing the primary letter of nomination assembles all the information/support materials and submits as a single packet to the Southern Rural Development Center.

**Submission Deadline:** The nomination packet (primary letter, support letters, Community Development documents/resources) **must be submitted electronically no later than Thursday, April 2, 2026** to Grace Langford at [grace.langford@msstate.edu](mailto:grace.langford@msstate.edu).

**Announcement of Award:** The 2026 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award will be formally announced at the NACDEP (National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals) Conference in June 2026.

### Judging Matrix

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • Impact of community development work in local community, state, nation and/or world – demonstrates clear, measurable impacts | 30 Points |
| • Achievements - evidence of clear accomplishments and successes, which can include formal awards and recognition.             | 20 Points |
| • Community development materials produced (publications, trainings, etc.)   | 25 Points |
| • Professional activities, committee service, leadership roles   | 15 Points |
| • Overall advancement of the importance of community development efforts within Extension                                      | 10 Points |

