



APPLICATION FORM
BOYER BEST PRACTICES AWARD 2005
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION IN
CREATING A CLIMATE FOR LEARNING

THE BOYER CENTER

The Center is a national education institute that facilitates ongoing renewal in schools and communities. It is named for Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. (1928-1995), distinguished American educator, scholar, and citizen, and is the site of the Boyer Archives. It is located on the campus of Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania.

THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM

- to recognize elementary schools for their service learning programs as they connect curriculum and community, to invite the development and evaluation of such programs, and to promote exemplary practices in elementary education.

SPONSORSHIP

The Boyer Center is pleased to sponsor this awards program in collaboration with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the Basic School Network, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and *Teaching K-8*. The awards are made possible through a grant by Maynard and Carolyn Sauder.

AWARDS

Three monetary awards of **\$10,000** each will be made to **elementary schools (preK-5/6)**. Awards will be announced in April, 2005.

CRITERIA

This awards program is inspired and informed by the work of Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. in *The Basic School: A Community for Learning* (Jossey-Bass, 1995). Adherence to the agenda of this book is not required for participation in this awards program. However, the book is recommended as a resource for applicants.

We will look for:

- evidence that differentiated instruction is informed by relevant research
- evidence of the integration of differentiated instruction into and across the curriculum
- evidence that differentiated instruction is proactive and student centered
- evidence that differentiated instruction provides “multiple approaches” to content, process, and product.
- evidence that differentiated instruction is rooted in assessment

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- A. Materials must be postmarked no later than **December 1, 2004**. Please send two **(2) copies** to the Boyer Center.
- B. The application materials may not exceed **10 pages of double-spaced text** (not including the entry form cover page). **Please use type size no smaller than 12-point**. Please do not submit audio, video, photos, art, press clippings, scrapbooks, or other supplementary materials.
- C. Schools selected for the second phase of the award process should be prepared to entertain a site visit (March 2005) by one or two evaluators and be willing to provide additional materials to corroborate the application.
- D. Award decisions will be made by the National Advisory Committee and will be final. Awards will be announced in April, 2005. Those schools meriting financial awards will receive them by June 1, 2005, and are expected to use those funds during the 2005-2006 school year. The Boyer Center is not liable for any costs (tangible or intangible, such as application processing, advertising, travel, etc.) incurred by the applicant(s) or the successful award recipient(s) prior or subsequent to the award. Permission for all news releases, publicity statements, etc., pertaining to the awards is granted to The Boyer Center.

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Boyer Best Practices National Selection Committee

Dr. Richard Andrews, University of Missouri, Columbia
Dr. Lillian Brinkley, retired Basic School principal
Ms. Patricia Broderick, Teaching K-8 Magazine
Dr. Glenn R. Bucher, The Boyer Center
Ms. Ann Cunningham-Morris, ASCD
Ms. Margaret Evans, NAESP
Dr. Gus Jacob, University of Missouri, Kansas City
Dr. Don Murk, Messiah College

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Thank you for your interest in this Awards Program. We look forward to receiving your application. Contact the Center for booklets describing schools that won Boyer Best Practices Awards in the past.

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For inquiries and updates, contact Donald Murk at (717) 796-5077
The Boyer Center, Messiah College, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027
E-mail: dmurk@messiah.edu
Website: www.boyercenter.org

2005 BOYER BEST PRACTICES ENTRY FORM

For your application, you will need to complete two sections:

- (1) the entry form contact information below;
- (2) on separate pages, your answers to the essay questions. For confirmation that your application has been received, enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard.

Postmark deadline: December 1, 2004

Please print or type on the lines below.

School _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Contact person's name and title _____

Signature of Principal or Head of School _____

Principal/Head of School (please print) _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Check the ways you learned about the 2005 Awards:

- word-of-mouth
- Boyer Center Web Page
- Previous submission
- Internet site (specify) _____
- Other information source _____

ESSAY SECTION:

Directions:

Please retype the number, the requested information for each essay and your answers, double-spaced, in type no smaller than 12-point. Please adhere to page limits.

1. Briefly describe your school, neighborhood and community. (1/2 page maximum)
2. Provide evidence that differentiated instruction is informed by relevant research. (one page maximum)
3. Provide evidence that differentiated instruction is integrated into and across the curriculum at your school. (two page maximum)
4. Provide evidence that differentiated instruction is proactive and student centered. (two page maximum)
5. Provide evidence that differentiated instruction provides multiple approaches to content, process, and product. (2 page maximum)
6. Provide evidence that differentiated instruction is rooted in assessment. (2 page maximum)
7. How would you use the award to enhance and support differentiated instruction in your school?
(1/2 page maximum.)

BOYER BEST PRACTICES 2005

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION in CREATING a CLIMATE for LEARNING

The Boyer Center is proud to announce the theme for the Boyer Best Practices Award for 2005. This is the sixth year for the award. This year's theme, as in the past, is inspired by Dr. Boyer himself. In the preface to the Basic School text Dr. Boyer says, "If all children are to be ready for school, surely all schools must be ready for children." He continued by summarizing the conversations with teachers who "spoke with urgency about how the lives of children are changing" and concluded that we need to make a quality education available to ALL children. Boyer then quotes James Comer (1992), "You've got to provide an environment that allows children to feel wanted, valued, and accepted, one that allows them to accept you. Yet the sad truth is that far too many youngsters in this country are lonely, neglected, even threatened."

The term diversity is a term that is used often in the field of education. This year's theme attempts to examine programs in schools that meet the needs of ALL learners through the practice of differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction is "***proactive.***" The teacher in this classroom assumes that different learners have different needs. Differentiated instruction is rooted in "***assessment.***" In this classroom the teacher looks for every opportunity to know students better. This occurs through conversations with individual students, classroom discussions, student work, observation, and formal assessment as ways to gather as much information about students as possible. Differentiated instruction provides "***multiple approaches***" to content, process, and product. Teachers in these classrooms offer different approaches to ***what*** students learn, ***how*** they learn it, and how they ***demonstrate*** what they've learned. Differentiated instruction is "student centered." Classrooms operate on the premise that learning experiences are most effective when they are engaging, relevant, and interesting. Differentiated instruction is a "blend" of whole-class, group, and individual instruction. Finally, differentiated instruction is "organic." In a differentiated classroom, teaching is evolutionary. Students and teachers are learners together.

The Best Practices Awards are given to schools that demonstrate unique, innovative, quality in the practice of differentiated instruction throughout the entire school. Application forms are available on the web or by contacting the Boyer Center. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2004.