Digital Leader of Early Learning Award

The National Association of Elementary School Principals in partnership with VINCI Education is pleased to announce the Digital Leader of Early Learning Award. This award is in honor of Leonardo da Vinci, a scholar, inventor, and innovator who embodied the type of renaissance thinking we all wish to inspire in our children. We are looking for NAESP members who have embraced such thinking in their schools with innovative educational technology practices that support the early learner. Our aim is to showcase your leadership in technology and Pre-K-3 early learning programs so that it can be recognized and shared with colleagues. VINCI Education is committed to making a difference in the lives of children by maximizing each child’s potential at the earliest point. The emphasis is on creating tools and offering blended learning early education services that are scientific, holistic, experiential, accountable, and relevant to the personalized needs of each child.

Together we advocate for a blended, integrated curriculum and program that helps parents and teachers collaboratively develop children in systematic ways. Through our partnership, the goal is to assist with the planning and implementation of universal Pre-K-3 programs, by helping educators learn strategies and gain the necessary competencies, including the use of digital tools that help young children succeed in school and beyond.

Beginning December 1, 2015 through March 1, 2016, principals can apply to be a recipient of the VINCI/ NAESP Digital Leader of Early Learning Award. This can be accomplished by submitting a 2-3 minute video showcasing how you are creatively using digital technology and tools in a blended early learning classroom that drive student development, enjoyment of learning, and individual achievement. This video may include examples of student work and show students actively engaged in learning through technology. Submission requirements include completing a profile and two essay questions. The online application is available at

https://www.research.net/r/digitalaward

INFORMATIONAL LINKS

National Association of Elementary School Principals  www.naesp.org
VINCI Education      http://www.vincieducation.com/about-vinci/
Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities Executive Summary  http://www.naesp.org/llc
DEADLINES

Application Opening: December 1, 2015
Final Date for Application: March 1, 2016
Award Announced: April 1, 2016
Award Presented: NAESP National Conference, July 6-8, 2016

Winner will be featured in NAESP and VINCI Education publications and social media. The selected winner will engage in a session at the NAESP Conference and be recognized throughout the conference.

NAESP National Conference
Best Practices for Better Schools
National Harbor, Maryland * July 6-8, 2016
http://www.naespconference.org/

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply for these awards?

1. Principals demonstrating evidence of a technology rich environment in Pre-K-3 programs
2. Members of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

What are the important dates?

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What do I have to include with my application?

Your application must include:

1. Submission of the completed application form (link….survey monkey )
2. Uploaded 2-3 minute video to YouTube. You may use the privacy settings if you do not want the video to be viewed publically. The video should be saved using the following title:

Your Name-Your School Name State Abbreviation-NAESP/VINCI 2016
(For example, Jane Brown-Pace Elementary School, KS-NAESP/VINCI 2016)
What are examples of the video content?

- Students engaged in developmentally appropriate digital learning activities
- Showcasing examples of student work and products
- Teacher and student engagement in blended learning environments

What will winners receive?

Award: $2,000

* A total of 5 Awardees will be selected. *

Monetary award will cover travel/lodging for the 2016 NAESP National Conference and remainder of funds to support school early childhood program activities.

1. Recognition as an NAESP Digital Principal during an award presentation at the 2016 NAESP Conference.
2. Opportunity to present your work at the NAESP Conference.
   - NAESP National Conference
   - Best Practices for Better Schools
   - National Harbor, Maryland * July 6-8, 2016
   - [http://www.naespconference.org/](http://www.naespconference.org/)

3. Your school and activities will be featured on the NAESP and VINCI websites.

How will the video artifacts be used?

Outstanding videos will be posted on the NAESP site in an effort to share innovation and best practice. Select answers from your application may also be posted with your video.

What is the selection criterion?

A. Materials demonstrate the use of developmentally appropriate early learning best practices.

B. Submissions share a blended learning approach using technology and traditional practices. For example, the use of tablets, computers, I-movie, other technology devices, etc. providing enriched learning opportunities and enhanced teaching strategies in the child’s educational environment.

C. Video and/or slides have a clear message where specific practices are demonstrated; testimonials and/or interviews may be included.

D. Video is high-quality and dynamic.

E. Application Essay #1 provides a clear overview of the practice and how it relates to the use of technology in early learning classrooms.

F. Application Essay #2 describes the impact of the practice; qualitative or quantitative data may be included (using early learning local, state, or NAESP national competencies).
What will the selection process look like?

Selection will be led by NAESP staff, VINCI Education staff, and early learning technology infused program experts.

For additional information, please contact Dorothy Wright at 703-518-6244 dwright@naesp.org.