



2026 PACTESP Life/Work Challenge Award

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS

OBJECTIVE

The PACTESP Life/Work Challenge Award recognizes a student who has overcome significant challenges in realizing life/work potential.

AWARD

Award recipients will be honored with a certificate of life/work achievement. In addition, the first, second, and third place winners will receive checks for \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively. The award presentation will take place at the PACTESP Mid-Winter Conference.

NOMINEE CRITERIA

The nominated students must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Enrolled in the final year of a PDE-approved career and technical education (CTE) program.
- Received support services during the current year in at least one of the special population categories as defined in Perkins V.
- Shows a personal commitment to maximizing individual potential.
- Demonstrates social skills that enhance employability.
- Exhibits a strong personal work ethic.
- Demonstrates occupational skill attainment in a CTE program.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

The committee can only form an accurate assessment of the student's accomplishments if the information provided is clear and complete. The following are the requirements for submission:

- Applications must be submitted by a school staff member (such as a professional educator, guidance counselor, principal, paraeducator, etc.) who works directly with the student.
- Each section of this nomination application must be completed.
- Additional supporting documentation can be provided after the application form has been submitted. Email documents to info@pactesp.org.

NOMINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Each nomination application should provide clear and complete information about the student which is sufficient for the review committee to evaluate the student fairly. Below are suggestions for completing the application.

- Describe the challenges the student has faced or currently faces, including the type of and specific characteristics of his/her disability or other challenges. How has the student developed and grown over his/her time in the CTE program? **Tell us about the student.**
- Describe how the student has used the support he/she has received to overcome those challenges. Explain how the student has grown because of receiving support. Describe the challenges the student faces in school and in his/her personal life. How has the student learned to overcome challenges?
- Describe the support services provided to the student emphasizing the outcomes of those services. Describe the support services the student receives and has received in previous school years. For example, a student with disabilities may receive special education and other services to meet individual needs. A student who is homeless may receive counseling and support services from school staff and community agencies. How have these services helped the student overcome his/her life/work challenge?
- Describe examples of the student's commitment to maximizing individual potential, demonstrating social skills that enhance employability, and exhibiting a strong personal work ethic. Describe situations in which the student demonstrates personal and social skills that have developed and improved, including increased independence. How have these skills helped the student overcome his/her life/work challenge? If appropriate, include input from other educators, administrators, employers, community colleagues, etc.
- Describe the student's success and the outcomes of the student's enrollment in a CTE program. Describe the nominee's occupational skill attainment and any certificates and credentials received. If appropriate, include input from instructors, administrators, employers, and/or community individuals. How have these outcomes helped the student overcome his/her life/work challenge?
- Additional supporting documentation and/or letters of support may also be provided after the application form has been submitted. Email documents to info@pactesp.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If your student is selected as an award recipient, the nominator will be contacted to complete a Student Consent Form, which is signed by the nominee and parent or guardian for the use of photos and student information.

Contact PACTESP with any questions at info@pactesp.org. This nomination application must be submitted by **January 9, 2026**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the nomination application.