

# KATHY TAFT EDUCATION POLICY AWARD

## SELECTION GUIDELINES

### Purpose

The Kathy Taft Education Policy Award was established in 2010 in honor of Kathy Taft, a longtime member of the NC State School Board. The purpose of the Kathy Taft Award is to recognize a rising or graduating senior majoring in public policy with an interest in and dedication to education policy.

### Nomination Process

Public Policy students may nominate themselves or their peers. In addition, public policy faculty may nominate students. **Nominations must be received by April 1st.** Nominations should include:

- A copy of the students' most recent transcript.
- A nomination letter summarizing the student's dedication to education policy, accomplishments in promoting education, and service to UNC-Chapel Hill students interested in education issues.
- A letter of support from an employer, supervisor, fellow student, or faculty member who can attest to the student's dedication, accomplishment, and service.

### Selection Criteria

The Undergraduate Affairs Committee seeks evidence of a dedication to education policy that has been sustained over a student's college career and is expected to continue into the future. Factors to be considered when deciding the recipient of the Taft Award are:

***Eligibility.*** Eligibility is restricted to declared majors in Public Policy. Students must be a rising or graduating senior.

***Dedication.*** An interest in and dedication to education policy may be demonstrated by the completion of course work on education; participation in student groups, community groups, or other non-profit organizations with a primary goal of promoting high school completion or higher education; or volunteer work aimed at mentoring students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Nominees should also identify future plans to promote education and improve education policy in the US or abroad.

***Accomplishment.*** The record of a strong candidate should include evidence of innovation, leadership, and advocacy in promoting educational attainment of youth and the development of educational programs and resources. Recipients should also demonstrate evidence of strong academic achievement with a GPA of approximately 3.0 in the public policy major.

***Service.*** Strong candidates will also demonstrate service to students interested in education policy at UNC-Chapel Hill by participation in the public policy majors union, representation of student interests to the faculty, and engagement in recruiting and mentoring new public policy majors.

### Selection Process

The Undergraduate Affairs Committee will review nominations and recommend a recipient to the faculty of the Department of Public Policy. The faculty's recommendation will be shared with the Taft family prior to the announcement of the winner. The winner will be announced during the Spring commencement.

**Announcement**

The recipient will be announced at graduation each year. A letter will be mailed to the recipient asking them to attend the graduation. In addition, with the recipient's permission, contact information will be shared with the Taft family. The Department will invite each recipient and the Taft family to an award lunch or dinner.