

**Nominations are accepted year-round**

# **IASE Awards Program**

*The Idaho Academy of Science and Engineering (IASE) conducts an annual awards program to recognize outstanding contributions and achievements in science or engineering, science communication, and early-career promise in science or engineering, in or related to Idaho. Nominations of all individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields are welcome, regardless of their professional affiliations or backgrounds.*

## **DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST/ENGINEER**

An individual demonstrating exceptional achievements in science or engineering.

## **DISTINGUISHED COMMUNICATOR**

An individual showcasing outstanding achievements in effectively communicating the meaning and values of science and/or engineering to students and/or the general public.

## **OUTSTANDING NEW INVESTIGATOR**

An early-career individual, within five years of receiving their terminal degree, showing great promise in science or engineering in or related to Idaho. *The recipient of this award may be invited to give a keynote address at the symposium.*

## **REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the awards, nominees' work should be conducted in or related to the State of Idaho. This means that the person may live and/or work in Idaho or the work that they have done is of specific value or interest to Idahoans. Nominees need not be members of the Idaho Academy of Science and Engineering or even professional practitioners so long as their accomplishments are clearly STEM-related or in the realm of STEM education. Generally, nominees must be living at the time of their nomination; only in truly exceptional cases would the Academy consider giving an award posthumously. Otherwise, any individual who has contributed substantially to science/engineering or to science/engineering communication is eligible for consideration for one of these awards.

## **NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

Nominations must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format to **Awards.Coordinator@Idaho.Academy**, with the email subject line: **IASE Award Nomination**.

All nominations should include the following information:

- Nominee's name, contact details (address, phone number, and e-mail address) and affiliations
- A summary of the nominee's accomplishments (about 250 words)
- A brief biographical sketch of the nominee

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- Nominator's contact details
- At least one seconding letter supporting the nomination, with more encouraged.

The core of any nomination is then a detailed description of what makes the nominee worthy of an award. Supporting information including photos may be included. In three or four typewritten pages, the nominee's accomplishments should be described in broad terms, with a statement of why the work is considered outstanding. Just enough key details should be included to support the case being made. This supporting description will, of course, vary depending on the award and, to some extent, the nature of the nominee's accomplishments.

- A nomination for *Distinguished Scientist/Engineer* should focus on the breakthrough qualities of the nominee's accomplishments. Typically, this would include a discussion of pioneering discoveries, seminal investigations, major innovations, and so on ... always with a brief statement of why these are considered to be landmark achievements. Evidence of leadership – such as numerous citations of the applicant's publications, widespread follow-on work by others, service on technical committees and advisory groups, etc. – would do much to support the nomination. It is acceptable to include a full list of publications and patents in the nomination package, but a better approach would be to show only the most important papers and simply state the total number the nominee has to his or her credit.
- A nomination for *Distinguished Communicator* could well cite innovation and inventiveness, but is also likely to focus on effectiveness, impact, and influence. For this award, the nominator should provide examples of the nominee's ability to communicate complex scientific concepts in a clear and engaging way. These examples could include popular science books, articles, or videos, as well as public speaking engagements, science fairs, and outreach events. Evidence of the nominee's impact on public understanding of science, such as media coverage or public engagement metrics, would also be useful.

Outstanding achievers in education devise innovative classroom or field exercises and programs, create new and better ways to present scientific materials, find fresh ways to reach out to more students ... they do whatever it takes to effectively convey the facts and concepts of science, and an appreciation for the scientific enterprise. Of course, providing "hard evidence" for the value of some of these accomplishments may be difficult. Sometimes the work may result in the publication of a manual, a conference paper, news articles, or even a textbook; but such opportunities are generally relatively limited. Supporting the nomination with additional "testimonials" may be the best way to show effectiveness and impact ... and supporters should be urged to be as specific as possible.

Comparable factors would also apply to other communicators –such as journalists, science writers, TV or movie producers, broadcasters, and so on. They too will be judged on how effectively they communicate the importance and relevance of science to the broader public, and their level of impact, and influence. They should have a demonstrated record of excellence in conveying scientific information to non-expert audiences. In these cases, the nomination might describe how a local series of "hit" science programs was picked up by the national media and broadcast all over the country. Perhaps a book with a science/technical theme by an Idaho author suddenly becomes a national bestseller.

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Maybe a lecturer from Idaho starts turning up on national public television, or becomes a "hot item" on the national lecture circuit. Such accomplishments could well qualify an individual for this award.

- A nomination for ***Outstanding New Investigator*** should highlight the nominee's research accomplishments, leadership potential, and apparent capacity for future significant contributions to science or engineering. The nominee must have earned their highest degree within the past 5 years and hold an assistant-professor-level or equivalent position.

This award is intended to recognize exceptional early-career researchers who have already made significant contributions to their field and show great promise for the future. It is particularly important to include evidence of the nominee's achievements, such as high-impact publications, awards, and successful grant proposals. The nominator should also highlight the nominee's contributions to their field through significant research discoveries or advancements, as well as their ability to lead and collaborate effectively.

Further, the nominator should provide evidence of the nominee's potential for continued success, such as a clear research agenda, mentoring activities, and collaborations. A clear research agenda should indicate how the nominee intends to build upon their current research interests and contribute to their field in the future. Mentoring activities should showcase the nominee's ability to inspire and guide students and early-career researchers. Collaborations should highlight the nominee's potential to work effectively with other researchers, institutions, and organizations.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

An ad hoc panel of at least three individuals, selected by the Academy President and Executive Director, will review nominations. The panel, ideally representing the nominees' work areas, will assess all nominations against the criteria outlined above and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The final decision will be made by the Executive Committee, and the President will contact the selected individual(s) to confirm their availability to attend the Symposium or make arrangements to confer the award in absentia.

### **RETENTION AND RESUBMISSION**

Completed nomination packages may be submitted at any time, but any received after February 15 will be held for consideration during the following year's award cycle. Nominations will remain active for a period of three award cycles; afterward, the nomination package must be revised and resubmitted in order to be further considered. Additional supporting information may be submitted for addition to a nomination that is already one year old.

### **ENDNOTE**

The Idaho Academy of Science and Engineering's awards program provides an excellent platform to recognize and celebrate individuals who have contributed significantly to science, engineering, and science communication in or related to Idaho. Focused on excellence and impact, the awards are meaningful and encourage future contributions to STEM fields. The straightforward nomination process ensures accessibility, allowing anyone to nominate a deserving candidate.

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