

USSD COMMITTEE ON AWARDS CHARTER

Approved by the Board on July 22, 2015

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Awards Committee supports the Executive Director and Board by promoting the awards and facilitating the annual awards process.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Awards Committee is responsible for facilitating the annual awards program. The annual awards recognize outstanding contributions to the profession by members of USSD. The awards also encourage student scholarship and participation by younger members. The committee directly supports the Board of Directors and USSD staff with the following awards:

- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Excellence in the Constructed Project
- Scholarship Award
- Outstanding Paper Award
- Young Professional Outstanding Paper Award
- Outstanding Poster Presentation

A description of each award can be found in the responsibilities section below.

2014-2017 Strategic Plan: The Awards Committee specifically supports the Educate and Cultivate imperatives by facilitating the process to support student scholarship, encourage participation by younger members, and recognize technical excellence.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Previous Chairs:

2010-2013: Victor Vasquez, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

20??-2009: Peggy Harding, Turlock Irrigation District (formerly FERC)

Note: Peggy does not recall the year in which she became Chair.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award honors an individual who has made a difference to the profession through their leadership, inspiration and technical contributions. The selection is based on the following guidelines:

- Significant contribution to advancing the state of the art of dam technology (can be sustained, significant effort or a single breakthrough).

- Significant contribution – as a key designer, manager, or advocate - to major dam project(s).
- Significant advancement of public understanding of, or support for, the role and contribution of dams to benefit society.
- Significant and positive shaping of regulations, policy or standards for dams and dam safety.

The Executive Director e-mails the membership prior to the conference to solicit nominations. Once nominations are received, the Awards Committee recruits approximately five judges consisting of current or past Board members and e-mails the judges the nomination packages for review. The winner is announced during the banquet night at annual conference.

Excellence in the Constructed Project

This award recognizes the significant contributions made to the dam and/or levee community through the construction and remediation of water resources projects. This award is to honor the design professionals, the contractors, and the owners involved in projects. The selection is based on the following criteria:

- Best use of the resource, i.e. sustainable water resource management.
- Innovative design or construction techniques.
- Efficiency/innovation of design, costs, materials or time.
- Overcoming significant challenges; technical, physical or in the coordination process.
- Benefits as a result of the project's construction.

The Executive Director e-mails the membership to request nominations about three months prior to the conference. Once nominations are received, the Awards committee recruits USSD members and non-members familiar with water resources engineering projects to judge the nomination packages. The winner is announced during banquet night at the annual conference.

Scholarship Award

The USSD currently awards a single one-time \$10,000 scholarship and a minimum of two \$1,000 scholarships to a U.S. college or university graduate student whose research has the potential for developing solutions to design, analysis, construction, operation, safety, environmental, maintenance and rehabilitation, risk management, and emergency response problems related to dams. Applicants must be full-time students and U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The Executive Director and Board may open the award to undergraduates at their discretion.

The Executive Direction announces the scholarship in December (if the annual conference is scheduled in April) and applications must be received at least two months prior to the conference. The Awards Committee recruits a panel of judges (consisting of at least one professor, one well-rounded consultant, and typically one dam owner or government engineer) to review and rank the applications. During the Board meeting

immediately preceding the conference, the Executive Director distributes scorecards to the Board. The top applicants present their research during the Poster Session scheduled for Tuesday evening during the annual conference. The Board judges the posters and presentations and determines the winner. The winner is announced during the banquet night at the annual conference.

Outstanding Paper Award

This award honors the author(s) of the best paper at the annual conference. Consideration is given to the topic relevance, delivery of information, and presentation at the conference. The moderators and co-moderators for each of the sessions complete the initial ranking based on paper content; topic relevance; writing quality; and supporting exhibits. From their input, the top five papers are selected for further consideration at the conference. The Awards Committee recruits a diverse panel of at least five judges to attend and rank each presentation. During the conference, the papers presented are judged on technical content; relevance to the USSD community; presentation style; presentation materials quantity; whether the presenter allowed time for questions; and how engaging the presentation was. The Awards Committee tallies the results at the conference, and the winner is announced during the banquet night.

Young Professional Outstanding Paper Award

This award recognizes the potential of promising younger members and encourages mentoring of and collaboration with younger members. To qualify for the award, the young professional (age 35 years or younger as of the conference) must be an author or co-author of a paper accepted for the annual conference, and must participate in the presentation of the paper at the conference. The young professional is not required to present the entire paper. The moderators and co-moderators for each of the sessions complete the initial ranking based on paper content; topic relevance; writing quality; and supporting exhibits. From their input, the top three papers are selected for further consideration at the conference. The Awards Committee recruits a diverse panel of at least five judges to attend and rank each presentation. During the conference, the papers presented are judged on technical content; relevance to the USSD community; presentation style; presentation materials quantity; whether the presenter allowed time for questions; and how engaging the presentation was. The Awards Committee tallies the results at the conference, and the winner is announced during the banquet night at the annual conference.

Outstanding Poster Presentation

The Awards Committee recruits a diverse panel of judges to review posters at the conference and meet with presenters during the poster session and evaluates the presenters based on the following criteria:

- Potential value of poster topic to the profession.
- Quality of visual materials.
- How clearly research and conclusions were presented.

The poster authors do not need to be present. However, posters should be judged accordingly. The judges do not need to speak with each poster author but are encouraged to do so. The student scholarship posters are not evaluated for the outstanding poster award. The winner is announced during the banquet night at the annual conference.

President's Award

This award is issued at the USSD President's discretion. The Awards Committee is not directly involved in this award. If this option is exercised, the award will be announced during the banquet night.

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair: Katie Clarkson, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Phone: 503-552-2723, E-mail: katie.clarkson@ferc.gov
Young Professional

Vice Chair: Tina Stanard, Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Young Professional

Vice Chair (Young Professionals): Both Katie and Tina are Young Professionals

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES RELATED TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Identify specific goals and objectives for a three year period beginning in 2014.

Advocate:

- Advocate for technical excellence by supporting the Outstanding and Young Professional Outstanding Papers, Poster Session Award, Lifetime Achievement, and Construction awards.
- Advocate for young professional involvement by supporting the Young Professional Outstanding Paper Award.
- Advocate for student involvement through the Scholarship Award process.

Educate:

- Continue to support the Scholarship Program by recruiting judges to select finalists for the conference;
- Match scholarship finalists with mentors during the conference;

Collaborate:

- Continue to collaborate with the Newsletter Committee to provide a list of potential top technical papers to be published in the newsletter.

Cultivate:

- Cultivate participation of the USSD community by recruiting judges for awards who aren't already involved as moderators, authors, or board members.
- Cultivate contributions of young professionals by supporting the Young Professional Outstanding Paper Award.

MEMBERSHIP

Kathleen Clarkson, Chair
Christina Stanard, Vice Chair
Yunjing Zhang