

Dear Directors,

I am pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2017 Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research. This is the ninth year of the award program and, as in past years, the intent of this award is to publicly recognize the high quality science being conducted through the Hatch Multistate Research Program and the impacts of that science on society. In addition, it is intended to increase the visibility of the program within the higher education community with a formal presentation at the annual APLU meeting and notification of decision makers in Washington through news releases announcing the award winners.

Nominations for the 2017 award will be made through the five regional SAES associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD). Any approved multistate project is eligible for the award. Each association will submit one nomination to be considered for the national award. The regional nominations will be reviewed by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee. This Committee will make a recommendation for the national winner to the ESCOP Executive Committee who will make the final selection.

The winning project will receive \$15,000 from the Hatch Multistate Research Funds.

I encourage you to consider the multistate projects with which you are familiar and to nominate one that you feel deserves recognition and that will serve as an excellent example of the quality of research performed by the Land Grant system.

I have attached a description of the award program and want to bring to your attention the February 28, 2017 deadline for submission of nominations to the offices of your regional executive directors.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Bret Hess
ESCOP Chair

2017 Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (September 2016)

Purpose

The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority compels State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to *interdependently* collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state station could address singularly. Demonstration of interdependence is a high standard, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program's management objectives.

The purpose of the Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award program is to annually recognize those station scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and enhance the visibility of the multistate program. A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and judged by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate research activities. The ESCOP Executive Committee will provide final approval.

Award

The Experiment Station Directors have approved a monetary recognition of \$15,000 from the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner. Up to \$5,000 has been available to cover travel for up to two members of the recipient project (the Administrative Advisor and Chair or their designees) to attend the awards ceremony at the APLU Annual Meeting. The remaining \$10,000, and any unused travel funds, has been available to support activities which enhance and contribute to the research and/or outreach objectives of that multistate project, consistent with the appropriate use of Hatch MRF. Use of these funds is a project committee decision made in conjunction with its Administrative Advisor.

Eligibility

Any current Multistate Project (research, ERA, CC) listed in NIMSS (www.nimss.org) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award. The nomination is predominantly based upon the five-year project period.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects have private sector and non-Land-grant participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

Basis for Nomination

Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional Multistate Review Committee (MRC) via the regional Executive Director's office. The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

Criteria and Evaluation

Successful selections from regional nominations and advanced to the national competition for the ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award will demonstrate high standards of scientific quality, research relevance to a regional priority, multistate collaboration on the problem's solution, and professional leadership in the conduct of the project.

All nominated projects, in the required format, shall be evaluated using the same criteria (with weights shown) based on the Project's:

- Issue, problem or situation addressed (5%)
- Objectives (5%)
- Accomplishments as outputs, outcomes and impacts (40%)
- Added-value and synergistic advantages from interdependence across mission areas (30%)
- Evidence of multi-institutional and leveraged funding with examples of sources (15%)
- List of participating institutions (5%)

Selection Process

The ESCOP Science and Technology (S&T) Committee will serve as the review panel. The review will select from the annual group of regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the APLU Annual Meeting each year. All nominated projects will be evaluated using the same criteria.

Award and Presentation

The national winning project will be recognized by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Chair and USDA NIFA Administrator during the Awards Program held at the APLU Annual Meeting. Each of the regional award winning projects will be included in the APLU Awards Program by project number and title, technical committee chair, administrative advisor and participating institutions. This National Awardee narrative will be created by the Impact Writer and submitted to S&T Executive Vice-Chair. The title of the national winning project will be added to a plaque located at the USDA Waterfront Center.

Timeline

- October – Announcement sent to Directors and Administrators, Administrative Advisors and NIMSS participants by ESCOP Chair
- February 28 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional multistate research review or multistate research collaboration committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings
- May - Regional associations review, edit and finalize their nomination prior to the final submission
- May 30 – Associations submit final regional nominations to ESCOP S&T Committee via the regional association supporting S&T Committee (pdf and word document)
- June – ESCOP S&T Committee reviews regional nominations and submits recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- June/July – ESCOP Executive Committee selects national winner
- July – National winner submitted to APLU and ESCOP Chair announces at Joint COPs
- July/August – S&T Executive Vice-chair collects information from regional associations and submits materials to APLU for booklet and program script; NIFA notified for Waterfront Center plaque inscription
- September – National winner announced at ESS meeting
- November – National award presentation at APLU Meeting

Nomination Format

(The nomination should be a very concise summary and must be in this format.)

Nominating Region: _____

Nominator: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project or Committee Number and Title: _____

Technical Committee Chair: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Administrative Advisor: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project Summary (noting the following):

- Issue, problem or situation addressed (5%)
- Objectives (5%)
- Accomplishments (40%)
 - Outputs
 - Outcomes
 - Impacts (actual or anticipated)
- Added-value and synergistic advantages from interdependencies (30%)
 - Multi-disciplinary activities
 - Multi-functional integrated activities
 - Additional partnerships, associations or collaborations
- Evidence of multi-institutional and leveraged funding with examples of sources (15%)
- Participating institutions (5%) (**page 4 only**)

Nominations will be **no more than 3 single spaced pages** (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) plus a 1 page list of Participating institutions and units (alphabetized) for a **total of 4 pages**. Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Offices of the regional Executive Directors, by **c.o.b. February 28, 2017:**

Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>

Dr. Richard Rhodes III, Northeast <rchodes@uri.edu>

Donna Pearce, South <donna_pearce@ncsu.edu>

Sarah Lupis, West <Sarah.Lupis@colostate.edu>

Dr. Alton Thompson, ARD <athompson1@ncat.edu>