



**WSWS Officer and Committee Report
February 2023**

Office or Committee Name: Awards Committee

Officer or Chairperson Name: Tim Prather

Other Committee Members: Craig Alford, Rich Zollinger, Harry Quicke, Het Desai

Date of Preparation (include year): 1/27/2023

Activities during the year:

The committee met prior to the summer board meeting and decided to contact individuals about leading nomination efforts for specific individuals. The Award Nomination section of the web site was updated with current information. The Elena Sanchez section was updated from the prior year and that update process continued an error from prior years regarding the date when applications were due. Tim Prather has updated the documents to reflect an earlier date to coincide with the November 1 date to report scholarship recipients to the president.

The committee consulted via email about 3 submissions for the Elena Sanchez Scholarship and determined that each was qualified to receive the award. The students receiving the scholarships include:

- 1) Carlos Alberto Gonsiorkiewicz Rigon, Colorado State University
- 2) Georgia Harrison, University of Idaho
- 3) Zachariah Fighter, Montana State University.

The committee also received 3 nominations for Outstanding Achievement. We did not receive a nomination for Outstanding Weed Scientist, Public Sector, Outstanding Weed Scientist, Early Career, Private Sector and we did not receive an Outstanding Weed Manager. The committee consulted via email and after review of the packets concluded each candidate deserving of their respective awards. Those individuals are:

- 1) Beth Fowers, Outstanding Professional Staff
- 2) Breanne Tidemann, Outstanding Weed Scientist, Early Career, Public Sector
- 3) Byron Sleugh, Outstanding Weed Scientist, Private Sector.

The committee will meet via zoom to create a list of potential candidates for awards and contact an individual to nominate those potential candidates. Our intent is to solicit one nominator for each category. Unsolicited nominations then would be welcomed, and all evaluated. The “Steve Miller” request has had limited success and I think it takes away from celebrating those well-deserving award winners.

Recommendations for Board Action:

Informally, the WSWS board requested communication between the awards committee and the Rita Beard Endowment Board of Trustees. The intent was to communicate Elena Sanchez awardees to the board of trustees to consider selecting other candidates than Elena Sanchez awardees if the other Rita Beard candidates were of similar qualifications. The top candidate for Rita Beard award was not selected because the candidate was selected for an Elena Sanchez scholarship. Would the board like to make this a formal request to the trustees of the Rita Beard Foundation? In addition, would the board consider asking a trustee to serve on the award committee to ensure there is communication across the two groups or would you like to assign a board member contact to the Rita Beard Foundation?

Budget Needs:

The Awards committee requests \$3000 for Elena Sanchez scholarships, with \$1000 for each of 3 students.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Tim Prather

Date of Report: (see above)