

THE OPA EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

This award was created to honor Ohio early career psychologists who make exceptional professional practice contributions in their communities and/or professional psychology organizations.

Service contributions may occur in a variety of ways, including leadership positions, committee membership, or volunteer activities. Service contributions should be beyond the requirements inherent in the psychologist's employment responsibilities. Additionally, recipients will also excel in an additional area of professional practice, such as clinical service delivery, applied psychology research, teaching, supervision, or mentorship.

The Early Career Psychology Committee reviews and votes on nominations annually during their February meeting. The Award winner is announced at the annual OPA convention in April. The procedures to be followed in the nomination of candidates, selection of an Award winner, and presentation of the Award are detailed below.

CRITERIA:

1. Recipients of the Award should have an established record of service to a professional organization and excel in an additional area of professional psychology practice.

Service (Recipients must score at least a 4 or 5 out of 10 on one of these items)

- Individual has demonstrated outstanding leadership within their professional societies, organization, academic or research organization.
- Individual has demonstrated exemplary community service either by developing a program or engaging in volunteer work that has significantly impacted an underserved community.
- Individual demonstrates excellence in the areas of public education including giving talks in the community, disseminating information at health fairs, speaking in media interviews, and/or participating in other community forums
- Individual demonstrates excellence in the area of advocacy and public policy that benefits the profession or communities served by Ohio psychologists
- Individual displays excellence in mentoring clinical psychology graduate students, interns, postdoctoral fellows and/or junior faculty by providing outstanding support, encouraging and promoting education and training, professional and personal development, and career guidance
- Individual has developed a novel program or project which has benefitted the Early Career Psychology Community in Ohio or on a national level

Professional Psychology Practice

- Individual has developed an innovative treatment, program or intervention to advance the practice of psychology

- Individual has developed an intervention, services model, or research program that has made a positive impact on underserved populations
- Individual has made exemplary contributions to improve mental health service delivery or reduce mental health disparities.
- Individual has made exemplary contributions in an area of research or applied research that has advanced the practice/field of psychology
- Individual has received distinguished awards for research, teaching or practice
- Individual has shown excellence in teaching as indicated by strong evaluations from students/trainees, peers and/or administrators
- Individual has demonstrated excellence in teaching as indicated by innovative syllabi, assignments, assessment practice, or use of technology

2. The recipient must have received the doctorate degree within seven years prior to receiving the Award. Current members of the Early Career Psychologist Committee are not eligible while they serve on the committee.

3. The Award should be given to persons who are members of the Ohio Psychological Association.

4. Though the Award ordinarily will be voted annually, the ECPC may elect not to make an Award in any given year.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Call for Nominations will be announced on the OPA website, and nominations are to be submitted using an online form accessible through the website.
2. Materials required include:
 - a. A nomination letter (from self or other) which discusses the contribution to the profession of the early career psychologist that justifies the nomination and specifically addresses how the nominee meets the award criteria
 - b. The nominee's vita
A total of *no more than two letters of support*. All letters should directly address how the nominee meets the award criteria
3. The Chair of the Ohio- ECP Committee (or the Chair's designee) will be responsible for collecting nominations and for obtaining evaluations of the nominations from the Committee.
4. Nominees will be evaluated blindly by the ECPC on the service category and the professional practice category and receive a score from 0 (not applicable) to 5 (excels in this area) for each item. Review of nominees should carefully consider how a

psychologist demonstrates excellence in each of these areas when assessing candidates. Items will be summed and the psychologist with the highest total score will be awarded. In order to receive the award, the recipient must score at least a 4 or 5 on one item in the service category.

5. Members of the Ohio-ECP will rate and then rank the nominee and send both ratings and rankings to the Chair (or the Chair's designee) who will then compute mean ratings. Based on these mean ratings the ECP chair (or the Chair's designee) will select the winner.
6. In the event of a tie, the Board will be provided with each candidate's nomination packet (to include the nominee's vita, the letters of support, and the ECP committees ranks) and vote to determine the winner. The recipient of the award will be selected by mid-March.