



2017 DISSERTATION OF THE YEAR (DOY) AWARD CALL FOR NOMINEES

The Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) annually presents a Dissertation of the Year Award (DOY) to recognize high quality research by doctoral students in student affairs in the SACSA region.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Dissertations must be completed and signed between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.
- Applicants must self-nominate with a supporting letter from his/her/their dissertation chair.
- Applicants are required to be SACSA members at the time of submitting the application.
- The applicant's doctoral granting institution or institution of employment as of Fall 2017 must be located in the SACSA region (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia).
- The dissertation must advance inquiry related to the field of student affairs.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The strongest applications will demonstrate evidence of one or more of the following attributes:

- A timely, trending, or cutting-edge topic that advances discourse about the field of student affairs
- A topic that addresses issues particularly seminal to institutions, faculty, administrators, and/or students representative of the SACSA region
- A significant, unique, or innovative theoretical contribution to the field of student affairs
- A cohesive, well-reasoned, and rigorous methodological approach to empirically examining the question at hand
- Implications that guide strong, improved, and/or innovative practice in student affairs
- Alignment with at least one of SACSA's core values: inclusiveness, professionalism, collegiality.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A complete application will include the following:

- A cover page with the author's name, dissertation title, doctoral institution, institution of employment (if applicable), and contact information along with the name and contact information for his/her/their dissertation Chair.



- A Dissertation Summary *with all identifying information removed*. This summary should not exceed 10 typed, double-spaced pages (not including the cover page, references, and appendices) and must include the following sections:
 - Introduction: outlines compelling argument as to why the topic is of importance to SACSA’s membership and the field of student affairs
 - Literature Review: provides a summary of the scholarship used to describe the history, key variables, and/or research relevant to the topic.
 - Conceptual Model (if applicable): details any theoretical frameworks used to guide data collection and analysis strategies.
 - Methodology: justifies the research approach, steps taken, and instruments used to collect, organize, and analyze data
 - Discussion: synthesizes key findings of the dissertation research
 - Implications: discusses how the research and its findings have the capacity to impact future student affairs research and/or practice.
- Letter of Support from the dissertation chair outlining the extent to which the applicant’s dissertation meets the aspirational criteria listed above.

SUBMISSION

Please submit the materials as separate e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word to DMolina@colled.msstate.edu. Please make the subject of your e-mail submission “SACSA 2017 DOY SUBMISSION”. Finalists may be asked to submit complete copies of the full dissertation for review.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

August 16, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.

AWARD & RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

The award recipient(s) will be honored at the Fall 2017 SACSA conference with a small monetary prize. Prize money is intended to supplement the cost of registration and travel to the Fall 2017 SACSA conference where the recipient(s) will be given a session in the program schedule to present the results of their dissertation research. The DOY award winner(s) is also encouraged to submit an article about the research for possible publication in the College Student Affairs Journal within a year after receiving the award.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct any additional questions to Dr. Danielle K. Molina, Chair of the SACSA Research and Assessment Committee, at DMolina@colled.msstate.edu.