

XXIX. AURA AWARDS

A. POLICY

AURA recognizes and encourages outstanding contributions to science and to service to the astronomy community at AURA Centers. Accordingly, AURA has established the “AURA Outstanding Achievement Award Program.”

B. PROCEDURE FOR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Each Center Director shall nominate annually one or two AURA staff members or a team for each award; science, service, and technology. Awards are limited to one each per Center annually for recognition of: outstanding science achievement, outstanding service achievement and outstanding technological achievement. Nominations shall be submitted to the President, who will make the selection. For the Science Award, the President will consult with the relevant Management Council chair and vice chair.

The President (or his or her designee) shall present the awards. Each awardee shall receive a certificate stating the award and \$1,500 (taxable to awardee as income). After presentation, AURA will notify the appropriate Management Council (OC, SOC, STIC, AOC-G, AMCL) and will ensure that an announcement appears in the relevant Center newsletter.

In addition there is recognition for excellence in a non-monetary award for team efforts across Center and astronomical community lines.

1. ELIGIBILITY

All AURA staff members are eligible to receive these awards.

2. CRITERIA

a. For Science Awards, the following criteria apply:

- i. Demonstrated excellence in science.
- ii. Focus on scientific achievement during the previous calendar year, combined with a strong record of scientific achievement during the previous three (3) years (as applicable).
- iii. Observational work, theoretical work, or innovative instrument development shall be honored; the research or instrument for which the award is to be based should make, or have the clear potential to make, a significant effect on astronomy and astrophysics.

b. For Service Awards, the following criteria apply:

- i. Demonstrated excellence in service in any organizational role, including administration.

- ii. Focus on service contribution during the previous calendar year--either directly or indirectly to astronomy and/or in the support of the mission of the relevant Center.
 - iii. Performance above and beyond the specifications of the job assigned.
 - c. For Team Awards, the following criteria apply:

Any Center Director may nominate a group of individuals for an AURA Team Award. The award may recognize science, service, technology and innovation or some combination thereof.

 - i. A team will consist of three or more individuals consisting of staff from one or more AURA Centers and collaborating personnel from AURA Member Institutions.
 - ii. A Team Award will recognize sustained, extraordinary performance and achievement by a team of scientists, engineers, managers and administrators in making a contribution to science, service, or technology and innovation. Such achievement may encompass several years of effort.
 - iii. All nominations must be submitted to the President by January 30. The President will review the nominations in February and the awards will be announced at the annual Member Representatives meeting.
 - d. For Technology and Innovation Awards, the following criteria apply:
 - i. Demonstrated excellence in an area of technology including but not limited to engineering design, and software development.
 - ii. Significant innovative contribution during the previous calendar year in support of the mission of the Center.

3. SCHEDULE

Center Directors shall submit nominations for the previous year to the President by January 30 of each year. The President will review the nominations in February, and the awards will be announced at the annual Member Representatives meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible.