Distinguished Public Service Award

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS
Summary of Award

The Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes individuals outside of the field of applied linguistics - writers, journalists, politicians, lawyers, etc. - whose work (1) raises public awareness of important social issues connected to language and (2) makes exceptional contributions to promotion of multilingualism, linguistic social justice, and language-related human rights. The Award is given annually and is not to be confused with the AAAL Distinguished Scholarship and Service Award, given to members of AAAL.
GENERAL AWARD COMMITTEE POLICIES

The Business Office will distribute the Conflict of Interest policy to award committee chairs and members annually, following submission of nominations. Chairs will include in reports to the Executive Committee whether any conflicts of interest were raised and how they were attended to by the committee.

At the discretion of the award committee, the award may or may not be presented during a given year. A reason not to make an award would be an insufficient number of nominations, or no nomination that meets the excellence expected.

The President of AAAL shall notify and congratulate award recipients and shall notify nominating parties.

The Chair of each award committee shall notify finalists and/or those not selected. This excepts the Distinguished Scholarship and Service and Outreach Awards. Nominees who are not selected for these awards shall not be notified of such due to the confidential nature of nominations.

All award winners will be announced:
• Immediately upon notification on the web site and
• In the AAALetter immediately preceding the Annual Conference.
DPSA Committee Standing Rules

Purpose
The purpose of the Distinguished Public Service Award Committee is to acknowledge work by (a) non-AAAL member(s) that raises public awareness of important social issues involving language through the AAAL Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Membership
- The committee is made up of five members, two of whom are elected, two of whom are appointed, and one of whom is an Executive Committee member. The chair of the committee is appointed by the First Vice President prior to the general business meeting at the annual conference from among the previous year’s membership. The chair is normally a committee member who has served on the committee for at least one preceding year and may have been either elected or appointed. Appointed members are appointed by the First Vice President in consultation with the chair prior to the general business meeting at the annual conference. Committee members should represent a broad range of theoretical, methodological and epistemological backgrounds. The appointments should take into consideration the strengths of the elected members in order to balance/extend the coverage of the committee as a whole.
- Terms of the committee members shall be three years and shall be staggered.
- The committee shall report to the Executive Committee in advance of its spring meeting regarding outcomes of the award cycle, as well as recommendations for the following year’s cycle.
The Award
- The award is given to an individual or team of non-AAAL members, including but not limited to, writers, politicians, and other high profile figures. Should the award be given to a team, the team will decide which individual will accept the award on the team’s behalf.
- The award shall include flight, train and/or mileage reimbursement; ground transportation to and from hotels and airports; hotel room and tax for up to four nights at the conference host hotel; costs associated with securing a visa, as necessary; food and beverage reimbursement up to the per diem based on U.S. General Services Administration guidelines (www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21287); complimentary registration fee; a plaque for the awardee or one member of the team. Honorary lifetime membership in AAAL will be given to each awardee.
- The awardee will be invited to receive the award in person and to give a talk at the conference.

Eligibility
- The awardee(s) cannot be a member of AAAL currently or within the past five years.
- To avoid any appearance of endorsement, individuals running for public office may not be nominated.

Timeline
- March: Call for nominations announced
- June 1: Submission deadline
- September 1: Deadline for submission of winner and finalist (if applicable) information to the Business Office and AAAL President

Notification procedures
- Recipient shall be notified by the AAAL President.
- The AAAL President will invite the recipient to attend the AAAL conference for at least one day (of the recipient’s choice) to give a talk and meet with AAAL membership. If the recipient cannot attend, (s)he will be invited to submit a digitally videotaped 4-5 minute acceptance speech.
DPSA Nominations Procedures

Criteria for eligibility include but are not limited to the following:

- significance of language issues addressed by the nominee’s work;
- demonstrability of the public impact of nominee’s work and community engagement (e.g., impact on language policies in education and other institutional settings);
- attention to vulnerable and minoritized populations, such as immigrant children and indigenous language speakers; and
- equitable engagement with communities outside academia, grassroots language activism, championing the voices of community partners, and cultivating leadership among stakeholders.

All nominations should include (a) a one-page letter providing the candidate’s contact information and describing the work and its impact, and (b) supporting materials, such as publications, links to websites, articles in popular media and social media, letters of recommendation, etc. Below are three main areas that must guide nomination letters:

- What is the focus of the nominee’s work? What motivates that person (in your opinion)? How long has he/she/they been doing this work?
- How does the nominee’s work relate to the mission and vision of AAAL (e.g., does it promote linguistic social justice and language-related human rights)?
- What is the public impact of the nominee’s work? Please describe activities and accomplishments that stand out as particularly meritorious, including evidence, where appropriate, in the form of website links, (references to) publications, articles in popular and social media, letters of commendation, etc.

Nominations are due on June 1, annually to staff.