

2026 Jerry Shook Award

Focus of the APBA Jerry Shook Award

This award honors Dr. Shook's invaluable contributions by recognizing an individual whose achievements have enhanced the value of professional credentials in the practice of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Anyone who has made concrete and notable accomplishments in promoting, advancing, or significantly supporting sound professional credentialing programs (certification, licensure, registration) in the practice of behavior analysis that are consistent with Dr. Shook's vision for the profession and APBA's mission, values, and positions may be nominated for the award. The award is delivered at the Annual APBA Convention. In 2026, the Awards ceremony will take place during the Convention March 12-14 in New Orleans.

The APBA Awards Committee reviews nominations and determine whether to recommend a recipient for consideration by the APBA Board of Directors. The APBA Board of Directors determines the recipient by majority vote.

Who Was Jerry Shook?

As founder and first CEO of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®), the late Dr. Shook guided the development of certification programs for practitioners of applied behavior analysis that meet well-established, rigorous standards for valid professional credentialing programs. You might not know this, but he was also a founding Director of APBA.

Submission Requirements

Write a statement describing the nominee's achievements in enhancing the value of professional credentials in the practice of ABA. Please refer to the eligibility criteria in the enumerated list that follows and describe specific, concrete accomplishments by the nominee that meet the criteria. Keep the statement to a maximum of 3 single-spaced pages.

Combine your statement AND the nominee's CV into a single PDF max size of 100MG. Complete the sections in this form and upload the PDF – incomplete or late nominations will not be considered. Nominees need not be behavior analysts, certified by the BACB®, nor members of APBA.

Accomplishments that could meet the eligibility criteria include but are not limited to:

1. Advocating for incorporation of BACB credentials in laws or regulations in multiple jurisdictions that specify qualifications for practicing ABA or for being paid to provide ABA services
2. Advocating for laws to license ABA practitioners that are based on APBA's Model Behavior Analyst Licensure Act, which makes current BACB certification a foundational requirement for obtaining and maintaining government-issued licenses to practice ABA
3. Preparing students and other ABA practitioners-to-be to meet eligibility requirements for BACB certification
4. Establishing or helping to establish courses, supervised practical training, and/or degree programs to prepare students to meet eligibility requirements for BACB certification
5. Disseminating accurate information about the BACB credentialing programs to consumers, policymakers, regulators, members of other professions, and other members of the public

Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Current members of the APBA Board of Directors are not eligible.

The award recipient is invited to attend the 2026 APBA Convention (March 12-14, New Orleans) to accept the award.