

TACUSPA Awards Evaluation Criteria

Process: Anyone may nominate a TACUSPA member for an award. Members may be nominated by more than one person.

Basic criteria: all nominees must be current TACUSPA members. A nomination form must be completed for each nominee. Letters of recommendation/nomination will not be accepted in lieu of a nomination form. Only the Outstanding New Professional Award requires a letter of recommendation from their immediate supervisor.

Award specific criteria: Each TACUSPA award is evaluated using a rubric that measures certain criteria relevant to the award.

Dr. James (Jim) E. Caswell Distinguished Service Award

- Continuous TACUSPA member for at least ten years.
- Leadership performance in student affairs at the state, regional, or national level, the high quality of which is recognized by peers.
- Contributions above and beyond the normal service required by positions of leadership.

Outstanding New Professional Award

- Has worked for 3 or less years in a full-time position in student affairs (as of June 2019).
- Contributions to TACUSPA, which may include attending the Fall Conference, submitting or presenting at the Fall Conference or a TACUSPA webinar, or volunteering for the Association.
- Contributions to the individual's employing institution.
- Has performed all aspects of their job in an exemplary manner, as indicated in a **recommendation letter from the immediate supervisor**. Anyone may nominate but only the immediate supervisor may submit the supporting letter.

Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award

- Has worked 5 or more years as a full-time practitioner in the field of Student Affairs (as of June 2019).
- Significant contributions to TACUSPA and the profession, such as volunteering over multiple years, serving on the Board of Directors, serving as an outside/expert reviewer for other universities, published articles or research related to the profession, etc.
- Demonstrated expertise in creating a campus environment that promotes student learning and professional development.
- Outstanding individual contribution in innovative and responsive services and programs that address varied and emerging needs of students.

Dissertation of the Year

- Completed dissertation and had degree conferred on or after May 1, 2018.
- Outstanding doctoral student in, or intending to enter, student affairs.
- Demonstrates high-quality research relevant to student affairs administration. High quality research includes utilizing sound methodology and presenting and/or publishing dissertation work.

Faculty Member of the Year Award

- Full-time faculty member who teaches a course related to college students in Texas or long-term, part-time faculty members who teach similar courses or supervise internships.
- Conducts, publishes, and presents research related to the student affairs/higher education profession.
- Supports graduate students in their educational program to achieve their educational and professional goals.
- Teaches to engage students and ensure a deep understanding of course material.
- Engages in professional activities in higher education (especially TACUSPA) such as conference attendance and presentations, speaking engagements, consultations, etc.