

AWARDS POLICY

This policy defines the view of the association leadership on AACC's awards program and outlines roles and responsibilities of the Awards Committee and Board in maintaining the integrity of the program. The policy covers major awards granted by the association. It does not govern awards granted by AACC Academy, divisions, sections, or constituent groups.

1. AACC Awards are established and retired by majority vote of the AACC Board of Directors.
2. In considering whether to create new awards, AACC evaluates against the vision and goals of the association and its priorities at the time. The subject of the award is not driven exclusively by the sponsor.
3. It is allowable to create and give awards for a relatively short time. For example, AACC may use an award to highlight an emerging area of science until it is well established.
4. Awards serve multiple purposes. In addition to recognizing individual accomplishment, they also:
 - a. Communicate the values of the profession to those inside and outside the field.
 - b. Celebrate accomplishment and serve as exemplars for others.
 - c. Promote awareness not only of the awardees but also of AACC.
 - d. Help establish AACC as a thought leader in areas of endeavor that it deems important.
5. Each award stands on its own merits. No award is amplified or diminished by another.
6. There should be a clear written statement of purpose for each award.
7. Awards may be named for individuals either living or deceased.
8. Awards may be sponsored by outside entities, including corporate entities. Sponsors should agree to fund a new award for at least 5 years.
9. Sponsors may be consulted about the purpose and scope of the award but may not be part of the process for selecting award winners.
10. Award recipients are selected by the AACC Awards Committee from among the pool of eligible nominees and the list is ratified by the AACC president. The president may decline to ratify one or more recipients; the AACC Board of Directors then decides whether to grant the award and to whom.
11. Written nominations are expected to evaluate and appraise the nominees' accomplishments or otherwise make a compelling case for the nominees' merit. As part of this process:
 - a. Individual members of the Awards Committee cannot provide written nominations or letters of support for candidates.
 - b. The Awards Committee can and should actively solicit awards nominations and is encouraged to "brainstorm" about potential nominees.
12. Awards may be given to organizations and groups of people unless specifically precluded by the statement of purpose.

13. It is preferable to give awards to living recipients, but posthumous awards can be given at the discretion of the Awards Committee.
14. It is permissible to forgo giving an annual award in any given year if there are no suitable candidates. Such decisions are made by the AACC Awards Committee only after a serious and concerted effort to find a suitable recipient.
15. Awards Committee members are not eligible to receive an award during the term of their membership on the committee.

Adopted February 21, 2020

Revised from prior policy #8-1