

2016-2017 Awards Committee

Alan Aftanas, P.Eng. FEC (*Chair*)
Nishant Dhruve, EIT (*Secretary*)
Ernie Armitt, P.Eng.
Neil Chandler, P.Eng.
Kaitlin Fritz, P.Eng.
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Andy Nagy, P.Eng.
Hilmi Turanli, P.Eng. FEC
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The purpose of the Awards Committee is to receive nominations and select members of the association to be recognized for their excellence by Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, Engineers Canada and Geoscientists Canada.

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba members are able to nominate their colleagues for awards using the online nomination forms available at the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba website. The nomination form and the Award Criteria document (which identifies eligibility and judging criteria for each award category) are available at: www.enggeomb.ca/Awards.html. The deadline for the nominations is February 1st.

For 2017 the Awards Committee introduced a new award category: the “Diversity Employer Award”. Early in 2016, Council recommended that the Awards Committee consider a new annual recognition award to recognize employers for innovative recruitment and retention policies and programs resulting in a diverse and inclusive workforce in the engineering and geoscience professions. A Task Group worked through the summer and fall of 2016 to evaluate the suitability, develop a name and propose the eligibility and evaluation criteria for the award. The Task Group members were:

1. Neil Chandler, P.Eng. (*Chair*)
2. Ernie Armitt, P.Eng.
3. Ganpat S. Lodha, P.Geo. FGC

The Awards Committee’s first meeting of 2016/2017 was on November 22nd, 2016. The Task Group presented a recommendation to proceed with the Diversity Employer based on the award criteria that the Task Group had developed. The recommendation was approved by the Awards Committee and ratified by the Association’s CEO before being posted to the website; open to nominations for the February 2017 deadline. Several action items were identified to encourage nominations for all award categories including a reminder email to all members, a letter to all CofA members (which included a new poster that summarizes the award categories), weekly News Notice advertisements, a Keystone Professional advertisement and several advertisements on the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba website including a link on the homepage.

At the January 17th, 2017 meeting the Committee reviewed the nominations received to date and was pleased to see that excellent nominations had already been received in all Award categories. It was decided that closing date remain at February 1st, as advertised.

Nominations closed on February 1st, 2017 with twenty candidates in nine award categories. The Awards Committee convened for four meetings on the following dates to evaluate the award candidates: February 21, March 21, April 25 and May 16. The candidates were evaluated in accordance with the award criteria and award winners were recommended for approval by Council. Citations were completed by committee members for each award winner and provided to the AGM event organizing committee for follow-up. The award winners will be honored during the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Awards Gala Dinner on October 20th, 2017 as part of the AGM Conference along with a video tribute.

Other activities of the Awards Committee include:

- A feature article entitled “Celebrating Diversity – A New Award” was published in the Keystone Professional Spring 2017 issue. The article was written by Neil Chandler.
- Discussed and approved the University of Manitoba Engineering Faculty recommendation for the “2017 Champion of Engineering Education Award”.
- Selected a nomination to Engineers Canada for the “2017 Women in Engineering Profession and Engineering Excellence Award”.

I would like to sincerely thank the Awards Committee members, the Task Group members, Angela Moore, Sebastian Goldstein and Gemma Keatch for the dedicated support to the functioning of the committee. We also appreciate the continuing support and guidance provided by Grant Koropatnick to the committee.