

Seymour B. Sarason Award for Community Research and Action

Purpose and Requirements

The Seymour B. Sarason Award for Community Research and Action was established in 1993 to recognize people working in the conceptually demanding, creative, and ground-breaking tradition of Seymour B. Sarason.

This tradition includes:

- novel and critical rethinking, reframing, and reworking of basic assumptions, approaches, and issues in the human services, education, psychology, mental retardation and other areas of community research and action;
- major books and other scholarship that reflect these new approaches, within the context of historical wisdom;
- action-research and other action efforts that reflect these new approaches.

Those working in both academia and applied settings, including government, are eligible for the award. The award is given biennially.

Nominations Deadline: December 1, of even-numbered years.

Award Committee

The Seymour B. Sarason Award Committee is composed of three to six (3-6) members chosen by current Committee members with the advice of the President and the Executive Committee. Representation from the various areas of Seymour Sarason's scholarship (e.g. community psychology, education, mental retardation) is sought. Additionally, past Sarason Award recipients are asked to serve on the committee. Committee members serve staggered three-year terms. The Chair should be the President-Elect.

Special Procedure and Decision Making Process (in addition to the general procedures, above)

1. The Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations, advertising the award, and deciding upon the award recipient.
2. The Award Committee is responsible for fundraising and financing the award.
3. The Award Committee reviews submitted material, and rank orders candidates. Discussion of the top-ranked individuals occurs at a (telephone conference) meeting of committee members, who then vote to decide upon the award recipient. The recipient is decided by majority vote.
4. The Award Chair will inform the recipient of the monetary and membership perks and will request their mailing address for sending a check. The Award Chair will convey the address to the MA-MAL who will forward it to the Treasurer along with a request to issue a check.
5. The MA-MAL informs the Biennial organizers of the awardee and asks them to work with the awardee to arrange time for their address.

6. The Editor of the AJCP should be notified by the MA-MAL of the recipient so that he/she may request a publication version of the presentation and work out a reasonable submission deadline.

Award Presentation

1. The award recipient is invited to present an address at the SCRA Biennial and receives a plaque and a \$1,000 award from funds collected by the Award Committee. The address at the biennial conference may be part of a plenary where time is shared with other award winners; the decision about the format and amount of time allotted for such an address will be made by the Biennial Program Chair.
2. The recipient has the option of publishing his/her address in AJCP.

Maintaining an Award Fund

The SCRA Treasurer has responsibility for maintaining the award fund, carries out Award Committee decisions concerning how the funds will be invested (e.g., certificates of deposit; zero-order coupons), and obtains money to pay award recipients. All tax- related fund documents received are forwarded to the SCRA Treasurer, who has access to the Sarason Award funds.