



Early Career Award 2025 Call for Nominations

The College and University Faculty Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies is pleased to invite nominees for the Early Career Award.

This award, made to a scholar in the early stages of their career, recognizes a significant impact on the field of social studies education, which may include exemplary research/scholarship, teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum development, and/or community work.

Eligibility

Candidates for this award are encouraged to self-nominate or be nominated by a colleague in the field. Nominees must be members of CUFA at the time of nomination and a scholar in the pre-tenure or pre-promotion stage of their career with a terminal degree awarded in the last ten years.

Nominations

The nomination package (in one PDF file) should include:

- A cover page with the nominee's contact information, including name, NCSS member number, institution, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address
- A nomination letter (maximum two pages, single-spaced) explaining how the nominee's research agenda(s) and publications meet the award criteria stated above and on the next page
- A current curriculum vitae (include date and year of terminal degree)
- Two publications

In addition, the nomination package may include (not required) any of the following items to support the nomination:

- A support letter from a colleague in the field
- A course syllabus
- A support letter from a student and/or course evaluation summary for one course
- A sample of curricular materials developed

Complete nomination packages must be submitted for review by **Tuesday September 30, 2025 11:59 pm Pacific Time**. All materials should be e-mailed to ryanoto@umn.edu. An e-mail confirmation will be sent once the nomination package is received.

Questions? Please e-mail CUFA Awards Chair Ryan Oto (University of Minnesota) at the above e-mail address.

Review Panel and Timeline

The nomination package of each Early Career Award nominee is reviewed by three peer-reviewers, who score the materials using the attached criteria. At the end of the review process, reviewers for all the CUFA awards will be acknowledged as a group on the CUFA website. The recipient of the award will be announced at the CUFA Business Meeting. The review process timeline is listed below.

Month	Task
August	Call for nominations
August	Solicitation of review panel
September	Early Career Award nomination package due; Review panel assembled
November	Awards announced at CUFA Business Meeting

Award Criteria

Determining the Award Winner: Candidates are given a total score and the average of that score across reviewers is used to determine the award winner. If there is a tie score, the overall rating score is used as a tie break. If there is still another tie score, additional reviewers are used to break ties.

Scholarly Inquiry

The nominee presents a clear research agenda that is engaged in scholarly inquiry that extends a significant line of research, fills a gap in current knowledge, or raises important questions about extant knowledge, and produces high-quality research.

Score 1=weakest, 5=strongest

Connecting Theory and Practice

The nominee articulates a clear connection between theory and practice, while studying problems or questions that are timely and that contribute to current debates or dilemmas of theory and/or practice.

Score 1=weakest, 5=strongest

Contributions to Social Studies Education

The nominee's body of work is characterized by a significant impact on the field of social studies education, which may include exemplary research/scholarship, teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum development, and/or community work.

Score 1=weakest, 7=strongest

Overall Rating of Nominee

Score 1=weakest; 3=strongest

Additional Comments (which may be read during the presentation of the award):