



Tips for AVS Award Nominations



Many Award Opportunities through AVS

<https://avs.org/awards/>

National Awards

- National Professional Awards
- National Student Awards
- Technical Award
- Society Honors

Additional Awards

- Division/Group Professional Awards
- Division/Group Student Awards
- Focus Topic Awards
- AVS Recognition
- IUUSTA Scholarships



National Award Process

- Professional Awards: nominations typically due March 31
- Student Awards: nominations typically due May 3
 - finalists go through interview process during AVS Symposium for National Student Awards
- Detailed information on awards and nomination process can be found at: <https://www.avs.org/>
 - Preview the questions that are needed for each nomination
 - Submit nomination packages online
- AVS Trustees review nominations for national awards and select best candidates
- Award winners publicly announced at the AVS Symposium in the fall

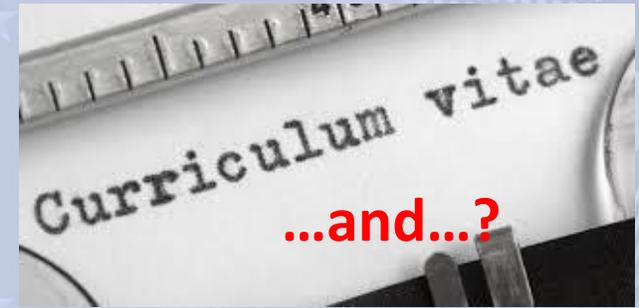


Submitting Nominations

Telling the Nominee's Story

Addressing the nomination questions...

- Do not include just a bunch of facts; the CV is easily read.
- Help Trustees get to know the candidate and their work.
- Specific items requested taken together should tell a complete story.
- Emphasize and explain the impact of the contributions.



WHO IS THE CANDIDATE?



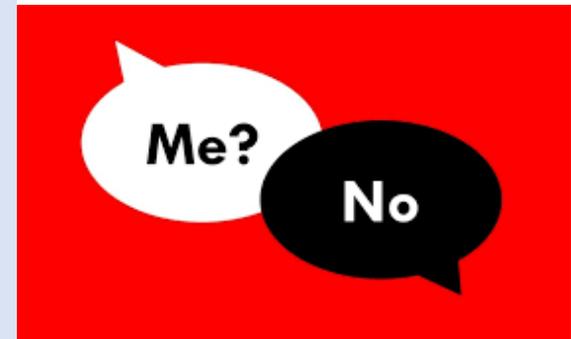
Things Trustees Often Look For...

- What has the nominee contributed *themselves*?
Specifics + broad accomplishments.
- What makes this nominee unique?
 - If part of a team, what was their critical contribution?
- Scientific/engineering impact
 - Is the research used?
 - How broadly?



Things Trustees Often Look For...

- Other aspects of the candidate
 - Service, mentoring, leadership...
- Specific requirements of the award
 - Welch, for example: previous 10 years.
Focus on that time.
- Emphasize the contributions of the nominee, not the group or the institution



One Way to Think About It

Similar to a research proposal:

Intellectual merit – what did the person do, why is it important, and why is it relevant to the award?

Broader impacts – what more does this person do or how large an impact have their contributions had?



Examples of Impactful Statements in Nominations



Impactful

The nominee served as the Department Chair at his/her University for 12 years. In that role, he/she initiated the concept, secured funding, and oversaw construction of an entirely new facility to house shared instrumentation. Furthermore, the nominee also changed our Physics program by developing a new degree in nanotechnology. The nominee encouraged every faculty member to develop elective courses in their fields to support the new nanotechnology facility and degree program.

The nominee generated 75 patents at his/her company. Of these patents, the CEO has recognized three of them with awards of distinction, signifying that they have had significant impact to company sales (>\$5 million). In addition, two of the patents are in healthcare products, directly affecting the lives of patients by restoring blood-flow quickly.

The nominee served on all nine committees of our local chapter. On many of the committees, he/she served in a leadership role. As one example, the nominee used his/her experience on the Membership Committee to suggest useful ways to use the identify and contact new section members, resulting in growth in activity of our chapter of over 50%.

Not Impactful

The nominee served as the Department Chair at his/her University for 12 years.

The nominee generated 75 patents at his/her company.

The nominee served on all nine committees of our local chapter.

Tips for Nomination Letters of Support

1

- Letters should be from people who know the nominee or their contributions well.

2

- Strong sets of letters will be from diverse institutions and roles, to provide a more complete picture of the nominee.

3

- Letters should complement the nomination and provide specific examples (do not duplicate the nomination).

4

- No need to repeat what is in nominee's CV.

5

- Nominators should supply letter writers a draft of the nomination to enable the supporters to write strong letters.

Things to Focus on For Specific Awards

- **Fellow** – scientific/technical contributions and service, especially to AVS or the broader community. This is best for candidates such as managers, staff at organizations like NAS/NAE.
- **Mark, Welch, & Langmuir** – primary focus is scientific/engineering excellence and relevance to AVS technical areas.
- **Thornton** – particularly relevant to thin films and plasma. Be sure to incorporate those into the accomplishments.
- **Hanyo** – technical support role. Talk about their impact on their team as well as any support/mentorship of their community. This is a good place to recognize a vendor or technical staff at a vendor.
- **Student** – separate student's contribution from their group/mentor.



Seeking Excellent and Diverse Nominations

AVS is proud of its awards and history and as the diversity of the society expands, we encourage the nomination pool to reflect the growing diversity of the Society.

If the nominee isn't what you think of as a traditional AVS awardee, don't let that keep you from submitting a strong nomination package.



**Thank you for your
efforts in submitting
award nominations!**

