Society Award Descriptions

(Updated and current, March 2024)

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Science and Technology Medals

The Carl-Gustaf Rossby Research Medal

The Carl-Gustaf Rossby Research Medal is presented to individuals on the basis of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the structure or behavior of the atmosphere. It represents the highest award the Society can bestow upon an atmospheric scientist.

Nominations are considered by the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Hydrologic Sciences Medal

The Hydrologic Sciences Medal is granted to researchers who make outstanding contributions to scientific knowledge in hydrology, hydrometeorology, and/or hydroclimatology, including interactions between the land surface and the atmosphere. It represents the highest award the Society can bestow upon an individual in the hydrologic sciences.

Nominations are considered by the Hydrologic Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Henry Stommel Research Medal

The Henry Stommel Research Medal is granted to researchers in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of the understanding of the dynamics and physics of the ocean. It represents the highest award the Society can bestow upon an oceanographer.

Nominations are considered by the Oceanographic Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Verner E. Suomi Technology Medal

The Verner E. Suomi Technology Medal is granted to individuals in recognition of highly significant technological achievement in the atmospheric or related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. The term "technological" is used here in the broadest sense; it encompasses the entire spectrum of instrumentation, as well as observational, measurement, data transmission, and data analysis and synthesis methodologies.

Nominations are considered by a committee comprised of two members each from the Atmospheric, Hydrologic, and Oceanographic Research Awards Committees, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council. The chair and chair-elect of the committee shall rotate each year among the three Research Awards Committees.

The Sverdrup Gold Medal

The Sverdrup Gold Medal is granted to researchers who make outstanding contributions to the scientific knowledge of interactions between the oceans and the atmosphere, interactions between the oceans and the cryosphere, or ocean biogeochemistry.

Ocean biogeochemistry involves the study of processes affecting the distribution, fluxes, and fate of nutrients, carbon, trace elements, and other chemical compounds, including trace gases, in the oceanic environment.

Nominations are considered by the Oceanographic Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Jule G. Charney Medal

The Jule G. Charney Medal is granted to individuals in recognition of highly significant research or development achievement in the atmospheric or hydrologic sciences.

Nominations are considered by the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee, which makes recommendations for final approval by AMS Council.

The Warren Washington Research and Leadership Medal

The Warren Washington Research and Leadership Medal is presented to individuals who are recognized for the combination of highly significant research and distinguished scientific leadership in the atmospheric and related sciences.

Nominations are considered by a committee comprised of two members each from the Atmospheric, Hydrologic, and Oceanographic Research Awards Committees, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council. The chair and chair-elect of the committee shall rotate each year among the three Research Awards Committees.

Science and Technology Prizes

The David and Lucille Atlas Remote Sensing Prize

The Remote Sensing Prize is granted biennially to individuals in recognition of advances in the science and technology of remote sensing, and its application to knowledge of the earth, oceans, and atmosphere, and/or to the benefit of society. The award includes a monetary prize. Note: Prior to 2007 this was known as the Remote Sensing Lecture.

Nominations are considered by the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Jagadish Shukla Earth System Predictability Prize

The Jagadish Shukla Earth System Predictability Prize is presented to researchers who make outstanding contributions to the fundamental understanding of the predictability of the Earth as a system, and its application to prediction, at all time scales from hours to decades, for the benefit of society. The award includes a medallion and a monetary prize.

Nominations are considered by a committee composed of representatives from the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee, the Oceanographic Research Awards Committee, and the Hydrologic Research Awards Committee; recommendations are presented to AMS Council for final approval.

This Prize is awarded annually, and it is accompanied by a medallion and a cash prize of \$10,000. It is generously endowed by AMS Honorary Member Dr. Jagadish Shukla.

Service Awards

The Charles Franklin Brooks Award for Outstanding Service to the Society

The Charles Franklin Brooks Award for Outstanding Service to the Society is presented to an individual who has made important contributions to the Society, usually over a period of years.

Nominations are considered by the Awards Oversight Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Cleveland Abbe Award for Distinguished Service to the Atmospheric and Related Sciences

The Cleveland Abbe Award for Distinguished Service to the Atmospheric and Related Sciences by an Individual is presented on the basis of activities that have materially contributed to the progress of the atmospheric and related sciences or to the application of the atmospheric and related sciences to general, social, economic, or humanitarian welfare. Note: Prior to 2018, this was known as The Cleveland Abbe Award for Distinguished Service to Atmospheric Sciences by an Individual

Nominations are considered by the Awards Oversight Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

Teaching and Mentorship Awards

The Edward N. Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award (prior to 2013, The Teaching Excellence Award)

The Edward N. Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award is to be given annually to an individual in recognition of sustained outstanding teaching and mentoring at the undergraduate and/or graduate or post-doctoral levels and the impact this individual has had on students. The Lorenz Award differs from the Simpson Award in that the Lorenz Award is primarily concerned with academics in a college or university setting, while the Simpson Award is concerned with mentoring outside of a traditional academic setting, primarily by non-academics. The Anderson Award emphasizes efforts on behalf of underserved populations, including activities outside of the traditional classroom or college or university setting.

The AMS Board on Higher Education (BHE), in consultation with the Commissioner for Education and Engagement, is responsible for overseeing the award process and forming the selection committee. The selection committee, not fewer than five members, shall be composed of faculty members from both undergraduate and graduate institutions, at least one current member of the BHE, and, as an option, an active student AMS member. The selection committee will forward its recommendation (with a copy to the chair of the BHE) to the Commissioner. The Robert H. and Joanne Simpson Mentorship Award (prior to 2020, The JoanneSimpson Mentorship Award)

The Robert H. and Joanne Simpson Mentorship Award

The Robert H. and Joanne Simpson Mentorship Award recognizes individuals who have spent most of their careers in the government or private sectors and who, over a substantial period of time, have provided outstanding and inspiring mentorship of professional colleagues or students. Academics who have done significant mentoring outside the normal college/university setting also qualify, although those primarily mentoring students and postdocs at their college/university should be considered for the Edward N. Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award.

Nominations are considered by the Awards Oversight Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

Corporation Award

The Award for Outstanding Services by a Corporation (prior to 2018, The Award for Outstanding Services by a Corporation to Meteorology)

The Award for Outstanding Services by a Corporation is granted to a corporation for contributions to the advancement of the atmospheric and related sciences or their application. All three letters of support shall come from individuals not affiliated with the nominated corporation.

Nominations are considered by the Awards Oversight Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

Awards for Outstanding Contributions

The Kenneth C. Spengler Award

The Kenneth C. Spengler Award is presented to an individual, team, or organization whose efforts have contributed to the growth of the weather, water, and climate enterprise while materially fostering a sense of community and creating synergistic linkages among the public, private, and academic sectors, as well as the user community.

Nominations are considered by a committee comprised of the Commissioner of the Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise, the chairs of the Commission's Boards, two members of the Commission Steering Committee selected by the Commissioner, and the President and President-Elect who both shall serve as voting, ex-officio members. The committee makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Joanne Simpson Tropical Meteorology Research Award

The Joanne Simpson Tropical Meteorology Research Award is granted to researchers who make outstanding contributions to advancing the understanding of the physics and dynamics of the tropical atmosphere.

Nominations are considered by the STAC Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Syukuro Manabe Climate Research Award

The Syukuro Manabe Climate Research Award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fundamental understanding of Earth's climate system.

Nominations are considered by a committee of seven members, including the chair of the STAC Climate Variability and Change Committee (CVC), who will lead the committee; three other members of the CVC; and three at-large members selected by the STAC Commissioner, to serve up to three-year terms, to help ensure research across the breadth of Earth's climate system is represented. The committee makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology

The Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology is granted to an individual for contributions to the direct application of meteorological or climatological knowledge to the fulfillment of industrial or agricultural needs or in research and development of scientific knowledge, which can meet such needs.

Names of nominees are submitted to the Board for Private Sector Meteorologists with input from the Applied Climatology STAC Committee. The Board submits a recommendation to the Commissioner on Professional Affairs, who reviews the recommendation and then makes a recommendation to the Council for final approval.

The Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist

The Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist was established to recognize a consulting meteorologist for outstanding contributions to the profession, clients, and society. Nominees should demonstrate expertise in weather or climate and their applications, adherence to ethical behavior, and a high level of service to clients and/or the weather and climate enterprise. The Board for Certified Consulting Meteorologists makes a recommendation to the AMS Commissioner on Professional Affairs who makes a recommendation for final approval by the AMS Council.

The Charles E. Anderson Award

The Charles E. Anderson Award is given to an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions to the promotion of diversity in the atmospheric or related sciences and broader communities through education and community service. The award is in the form of an inscribed wooden book.

Nominations are considered by a committee of no fewer than five members of the Education and Engagement Commission, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Francis W. Reichelderfer Award

The Francis W. Reichelderfer Award is given in recognition of distinguished contributions to the provision of operational environmental services to the public.

The STAC Commissioner, in consultation with the Professional Affairs Commissioner, is responsible for overseeing the award process and forming the selection committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council. The selection committee is composed of a chair, two members from the Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee, two members from the Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, one member from the Hydrology Committee, one member from the Committee on Applied Climatology, and one member from the Coastal Environment Committee.

The Helmut E. Landsberg Award

The Helmut E. Landsberg Award recognizes an individual or team for exemplary contributions to the fields of urban meteorology, climatology, or hydrology, including, but not restricted to, achievements through measurements or modeling that provide an improved understanding of atmospheric processes in urban environments, enhanced urban meteorological or air quality forecasting capabilities, advances in identifying and quantifying beneficial and adverse impacts in urban areas, or in recognition of service or applications in the field. Contributions may either be for a singular achievement or in recognition of sustained contributions over a period of many years.

The AMS Board on the Urban Environment serves as the selection committee which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology

The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the theory, teaching, and/or application of knowledge about interactions between the atmosphere and biological systems.

The AMS Board on Atmospheric Biogeosciences serves as the selection committee, with input from the chair of the Agricultural and Forest Meteorology Committee, and it makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Banner I. Miller Award

The Banner I. Miller Award is given for an outstanding contribution to the science of hurricane and tropical weather forecasting published in a journal with international circulation during the 48 months prior to the deadline for nominations. The award is selected every other year (typically in a year between biennial Conferences on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology) and is presented to the authors of the publication.

The STAC Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones (TMTC) is responsible for overseeing the award selection process and forming the selection

committee. The TMTC Committee Chair may serve as the chair of the selection committee or appoint a member of the TMTC Committee as the chair of the selection committee. The selection committee may include up to eight members of the TMTC, and the chair of the selection committee may also augment the selection committee with as many as three additional members outside of the TMTC Committee when it isdeemed to be beneficial for the proper judging of the nominations. In any case, the selection committee should consist of at least five members including the chair.

For this award, unsuccessful nomination packages will not be held over for consideration again by the selection committee, but eligible publications that didn't win the award in previous years may be nominated again.

Outstanding Contributions to Boundary-Layer Meteorology

The Award for Outstanding Contributions to Boundary-Layer Meteorology will be conferred annually to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the fundamental understanding and/or applications of air flow and turbulence in the atmospheric boundary layer, its exchanges with underlying surfaces, or its pivotal role in the Earth system.

The selection committee comprises seven (7) members: three (3) members from the Committee on Boundary Layers and Turbulence, two (2) from the Committee on Air-Sea Interaction and two (2) from the Committee on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography. Committee members serve a two-year term, that can be renewed only once. The award recommendations are considered by the Awards Oversight Committee, which makes a determination for final approval by AMS Council.

Special Award

Special Award

Special Awards are presented to individuals, teams of individuals, or organizations not appropriately recognized by more specifically defined awards and who have made important contributions to the science or practice of meteorology or related aspects of oceanography or hydrology, or to the Society. Individuals employed at other than the professional level may be considered for special awards. Normally, not more than two Special Awards will be awarded in any given year.

Nominations are considered by the Awards Oversight Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

Author and Journalism Awards

The Louis J. Battan Author's Award, Adult

The Louis J. Battan Author's Award, Adult is presented to the author(s) of an outstanding book on the atmospheric and related sciences of a technical or non- technical nature published within the last three years, with consideration to those books that foster public

understanding of meteorology in adult audiences.

Nominations are considered by a committee of no fewer than five members of the Education and Engagement Commission, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council. Nominations may remain active for an additional year at the discretion of the committee.

The Louis J. Battan Author's Award, K-12

The Louis J. Battan Author's Award, K-12 is presented to the author(s) of outstanding learning materials or book published within the last three years that fosters the understanding of atmospheric and related sciences in K-12 audiences.

Nominations are considered by a committee of no fewer than five members of the Education and Engagement Commission, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council. Nominations may remain active for an additional year at the discretion of the committee.

The Award for Distinguished Science Journalism in the Atmospheric and Related Sciences

The Award for Distinguished Science Journalism in the Atmospheric and Related Sciences recognizes outstanding science journalism about scientific discoveries, principles, advances, and impacts in all media outlets including radio, television, film, newspaper, magazine, social media, and online. The award embraces a broad definition of journalism including, but not limited to reporting, interviewing, humorous blogging, and opinion or commentary pieces, as long as they convey strong, accurate science.

The award is given for journalism that makes atmospheric or related sciences material accessible and interesting to the general public and is published or broadcast all or in part during the preceding calendar year. To be considered, each piece, including those in a body of work, must go beyond routine reporting of an event, such as publication of a scientific paper, to put the event in a wider scientific context. The report or reports can be:a single article or broadcast; a series of related articles or broadcasts; a single blog or series of blogs, sustained social media activity, opinion pieces, or multiple unrelatedarticles or broadcasts, representing a journalist's recent body of work covering different topics in the atmospheric and related sciences.

The award honors individuals rather than institutions and is intended to honor professional journalists rather than scientists or others who do outreach or communication.

The AMS Board on Outreach and Informal Education (BOIE) in consultation with the Commissioner for Education and Engagement is responsible for overseeing the award process and forming the selection committee. The selection committee, not fewer than five members, shall be composed of scientists, educators, and journalists, at least one member of the BOIE, one member of the Committee on the Station Scientist, and the Education and Engagement Commissioner. The selection criteria are to include consideration of balance of the media type over time. The successful nomination will be reviewed by the STAC

Commissioner for the quality of its scientific content. Only one recipient may be selected.

Broadcaster Awards

The June Bacon-Bercey Award for Broadcast Meteorology (prior to 2021, The Award for Broadcast Meteorology)

The June Bacon-Bercey Award for Broadcast Meteorology recognizes a broadcast meteorologist for sustained long-term contributions to the community, or for outstanding work during a specific weather event. Nominations must be made in writing by an individual or group, and if possible, should be accompanied by an example(s) of the individual's work. Single event nominations must be based on extraordinary work during ademanding weather event. Although the Award is normally intended for an individual, it may be awarded in recognition of a team effort under special circumstances.

Nominations are considered by the Professional Affairs Commission's Board on Broadcast Meteorology, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Award for Excellence in Science Reporting by a Broadcast Meteorologist

The Award for Excellence in Science Reporting by a Broadcast Meteorologist is open to all AMS Certified Broadcast Meteorologists and AMS Sealholders. The award is for excellence in showcasing station scientist material that is accessible and interesting to the general public, recognizing that an informed, scientifically literate population is essential for meaningful public discourse and decision-making. Excellence can be demonstrated through a single report or series or an overall body of work. Material can be either on-air, online, or within public and professional speaking engagements. Short television or radio pieces, in-depth stories, and recurring segments are all eligible. Those who promote station scientist messages within blog content and presentations, both public and within professional conferences, are also eligible. The award honors individuals rather than institutions. The award is presented at the AMS Annual Meeting and is also acknowledged at the AMS Conference on Broadcast Meteorology.

Nominations are considered by the Professional Affairs Commission Committee on the Station Scientist, which submits its recommendation to the Board of Broadcast Meteorology and Commissioner prior to final approval by the AMS Council.

Early-Career Awards

The Meisinger, Houghton, and Fofonoff Awards are given to promising early-career scientists who have demonstrated outstanding research ability. "Early career" is nominally taken to include scientists who are within ten years of having earned their highest graduate degree or within fifteen years of having earned their baccalaureate. Consideration will also be given, however, to those who are still in the early stage of their careers but have seen these interrupted for up to 5-10 years by military service, or family and career

circumstances.

The Clarence Leroy Meisinger Award

The Clarence Leroy Meisinger Award is given to an individual in recognition of research achievement that concerns the observation, theory, and modeling of atmospheric motions on all scales. This scope includes the dynamical explanation of either contemporary climate patterns with their anomalous fluctuations or long-term climate changes and trends.

Nominations are considered by the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

It is intended that the Meisinger and Houghton Awards between them embrace all facets of atmospheric and hydrologic research so that workers in all branches of these sciences shall be eligible for one or the other. Nominations for the Meisinger and Houghton Awards may be pooled at the discretion of the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee (i.e. a Meisinger Award nominee may be considered for the Houghton Award and vice versa).

The Henry G. Houghton Award

The Henry G. Houghton Award is given to an individual in recognition of research achievement in the fields of physical meteorology, physical climatology, atmospheric chemistry, or hydrology.

Nominations are considered by the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

It is intended that the Meisinger and Houghton Awards between them embrace all facets of atmospheric and hydrologic research so that workers in all branches of these sciences shall be eligible for one or the other. Nominations for the Meisinger and Houghton Awards may be pooled at the discretion of the Atmospheric Research Awards Committee (i.e. a Meisinger Award nominee may be considered for the Houghton Award and vice versa).

The Nicholas P. Fofonoff Award

The Nicholas P. Fofonoff Award is to be given to an individual in recognition of research achievement in the field of physical oceanography. All aspects of physical oceanography are eligible, including instrument development as well as observational, theoretical, and modeling studies.

Nominations are considered by the Oceanographic Research Awards Committee, which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Award for Early-Career Professional Achievement

The Award for Early-Career Professional Achievement recognizes early-career individuals who have demonstrated excellence in their profession. Their work should reflect a deep understanding of their expertise area and its application. Candidates should also demonstrate a high level of service to their community, society, and discipline, for example by mentoring fellow early-career professionals or students. This award is not intended to recognize early-career scientists who have demonstrated outstanding research ability, who instead should be considered for the Meisinger, Houghton, or Fofonoff Awards.

Nominations are considered by a committee of seven members, including the chair of the Board for Early Career Professionals (BECP), who will lead the committee, and three other members from the BECP; one member from the Board for Private Sector Meteorology; one member from the Board on Best Practices; and one member from the Commission on the Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise's Executive Committee. The BECP chair will submit a recommendation to the Commissioner on Professional Affairs, who will review and then make a recommendation to the Council for final approval.

Editor's Award

The Editor's Award

The Editor's Award is given to an individual for outstanding service to the journals, the Glossary of Meteorology, and the Meteorological Monographs. The service generally takes the form of providing exceptional reviews in a timely fashion or providing reviews of difficult submissions. Other forms of service are also recognized, including providing Editors advice about disparate reviews and adjudicating controversies between reviewers and authors. The award draws attention to the fact that the quality of our publications depends in a crucial way upon the reviewing process, and that this processis one to which a large segment of the scientific community contributes much time and painstaking effort, largely unheralded, in a spirit of selfless commitment to the ideals of accuracy and lucidity in scientific writing. An individual may receive an Editor's Award only once, whether for the same, or any other, journal.

Each publication nominates one individual per year, and additional awards can be given to improve the equity of awards across publications. The number of additional awards in a given year is roughly equal to the number of submissions to AMS publications divided by 500. Nominations for the Editor's award are submitted by the Editors of each publication to the Chief Editor of that specific publication. Nominations must include information about reviewer performance and why that reviewer is outstanding among the reviewers participating in the review process for the calendar year under consideration. The Chief Editor is charged with making the final recommendation(s) for the publication under consideration. The nominations are then submitted to the Publications Commissioner, who reviews and presents them to the Publications Commission for its approval. The nominees are then forwarded to the AMS Council, through the Awards Oversight Committee, for final approval.

Forecaster Awards

The awards for Outstanding Service by a Weather Forecaster (Charles L. Mitchell and Exceptional Specific Prediction) are presented to individuals who, through performance of exceptional forecast service, have distinguished themselves and brought credit to their profession. The Society presents the awards in recognition of the great importance of weather forecasting to the public safety and well-being, and the valuable professional services provided by persons who are engaged in forecasting activities.

The Charles L. Mitchell Award

The Charles L. Mitchell Award is given in recognition of long-term service by individuals engaged in weather forecasting activities.

Nominations are considered by a committee of no fewer than five members of the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission's Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

The Award for an Exceptional Specific Prediction

The Award for an Exceptional Specific Prediction is given to one or more individuals in recognition of an exceptional prediction of one or more significant events.

Nominations are considered by a committee of no fewer than five members of the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission's Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting which makes a recommendation for final approval by AMS Council.

Chapter Awards

Each year AMS recognizes two local chapters (one regular chapter and one student chapter) that have demonstrated exceptional innovation and activity over the past year.

Local Chapter of the Year Award

The Local Chapter of the Year Award is presented to recognize chapters for their efforts to support chapter membership and its growth, their community through educational outreach and service, and the national Society through volunteerism and other activities. The award consists of a banner for the chapter and a certificate for each serving officer.

The Local Chapter Affairs Committee will review the nominations and make award recommendations for final approval by Council. A chapter may not win the Local Chapter of the Year Award more than two years in a row. After receiving the award two years in a row, there will be a one-year hiatus before that chapter will be eligible to applyfor the award again.

Local Student Chapter of the Year Award

The Local Student Chapter of the Year Award is presented to recognize chapters for their efforts to support chapter membership and its growth, their community through educational outreach and service, and the national Society through volunteerism and other activities. The award consists of a banner for the chapter and a certificate for each serving officer.

The Local Chapter Affairs Committee will review the nominations and make award recommendations for final approval by Council. A chapter may not win the Local Student Chapter of the Year Award more than two years in a row. After receiving the award two years in a row, there will be a one-year hiatus before that chapter will be eligible to apply for the award again.