The Jim Ferris Award: Outstanding Achievement in Disability and Communication

A. Description

This award recognizes an individual whose career as a whole has had an enduring and significant impact in/on the field of disability and communication. Preference will be given to nominees who demonstrate excellence in research-based and/or creative scholarship, teaching, mentorship, and/or service in/to the discipline, but the award may be given to an individual not directly associated with the field whose work has had an exceptional influence on its growth and development.

B. Nominations

1. Nominations must be made by a current member of the caucus. A member may only nominate one person in any given year. Current members of the Awards Committee are not eligible to submit nominations but may contribute letters to a nomination package.

2. A complete nomination contains at least two and no more than four letters of reference from different individuals, one of which must be from the nominator, and the nominee’s Curriculum Vita, resume, and/or a similar document detailing her or his contributions to the field. Additional appropriate documentation may be included but is not required.

3. Self-nominations are allowed.

3. Completed nominations must be provided to the Awards Committee by September 1, unless the committee decides to extend the deadline for nominations.

4. If the Award Committee does not receive any complete nomination packages and/or determines that none of the nominees meet appropriate criteria for eligibility and/or winning, they may decide to withhold the award that year.

C. Awardees and prizes

1. Except in its inaugural year, the winner of the award will be determined by the Awards Committee. In the inaugural year the winner will be determined by the caucus officers.

2. Awardees need not be current members of the caucus, but the committee may use participation in the caucus may as a criterion to determine the winner. If the declared winner is not a caucus member, the Awards Committee will facilitate arrangements for the winner to attend the NCA Business Meeting at which the award will be bestowed.

3. An awardee may only receive the award once in her or his lifetime.

4. The committee may give the award posthumously, but this is not preferred except in cases where an awardee dies during the selection process or before the NCA Business Meeting at which the award will be bestowed. Awardees may receive the award in absentia, but this is not preferred.
5. The recipient of the award will have her or his name added to the permanent plaque to be displayed each year at the NCA Business Meeting and will receive a plaque or appropriate certificate for them to keep.