

Transformational Research Excellence in Education (TREE) Award

Purpose of the Award – The TREE award is designed to recognize the outstanding research and educational accomplishments of the community of Cottrell Scholars. Additionally, the award serves to encourage the improvement of undergraduate education at research universities and raise the national profile of the RCSA and Cottrell Scholars.

Eligibility – Only former recipients of the Cottrell Scholar award are eligible. Nominees must be at least 6 years beyond the year of their Cottrell Scholar award. For the 2014 competition, eligibility will be limited to Cottrell Scholars who received their award in 2008 or earlier.

Nature of the Award – The TREE award consists of a plaque/trophy and an unrestricted \$20,000 award sent to the awardee institution in recognition of the award recipient's educational and scholarly work. The recipient is encouraged to use these funds to foster advancements in their research and educational accomplishments. An additional \$5,000 award is provided to the recipient to support lectures and travel to other institutions to communicate broadly the recipient's innovative research and educational accomplishments.

Nomination Process – Two nomination letters must be provided for the TREE award. One letter must come from the chairperson of the nominee's department and the second letter must come from a Cottrell Scholar. Both letters should highlight the exceptional *research and educational* accomplishments of the nominee (see Application Contents below).

Application Contents – The nominee must provide a short (limited to 4 pages) essay that has two components of equal weight. The first part must describe the nominee's *Transformational Research*, which could be a single publication or a larger body of work that has had a transformative impact on a field of research. The second part must describe the nominee's *Excellence in Education*, which again could be a single example (e.g., outreach program, textbook) or a larger body of work (e.g., continuous national leadership, etc.) that clearly distinguishes the accomplishments of the nominee. Educational accomplishments that reach beyond the nominee's home institution will be considered as particularly meritorious.

(Continued)

Award Timeline – Completed applications are due by close of business on November 1, 2014. All materials must be submitted electronically as pdf files to RCSA Program Director Silvia Ronco at sronco@rescorp.org. The award will be announced in March 2015.

Selection Process – A selection committee composed of senior Cottrell Scholars and members of the RCSA scientific staff will review applications and make recommendations to the RCSA President. Final selection will be approved by the President and members of the RCSA Board of Directors.

Presentation of the Award – The TREE award will be highlighted in two venues. The awardee will be asked to give a plenary talk at the Cottrell Scholars Conference and a session or reception will be organized at either an ACS or APS national meeting in honor of the awardee. RCSA will also provide funds for promotion of the award in professional journals.

Questions may be addressed to Silvia Ronco, Program Director, Research Corporation for Science Advancement (sronco@rescorp.org or 520-571-1111)