

General Tips for Highly Prestigious Award Nominations

Strong nominations for highly prestigious awards, fellowships, memberships in scholarly societies, and other honors depend on clear documentation, professional visibility, and strategic coordination. These practices help ensure faculty achievements are discoverable, well-articulated, and compelling to nominators.

Online Visibility

- **Faculty websites should highlight honors and awards:** Include distinctions such as major fellowships, leadership roles, and service to national organizations. For example, faculty members' online OSU profiles should showcase other prestigious honors such as membership in any of the National Academies, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Honorary Fellows Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), just to name a few.
- **Curated Google Scholar profiles:** These should feature a professional photo, accurate publication list, citation metrics, and links to collaborators.
- **Updated CVs posted online:** Faculty should maintain a current CV on their personal or departmental webpage to facilitate quick access by nominators and collaborators.

Institutional Coordination

- **Engage with the Office of Faculty Affairs:** As part of the Office of Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs can assist with nomination strategy, coordination, and documentation. **Contact:** Travis Sheffler, Director of Faculty Honorifics, sheffler.5@osu.edu
- **Leverage honorifics expertise:** In his role as Director of Faculty Honorifics at Ohio State, Travis can help identify potential nominators for highly prestigious awards and honors, draft nomination materials, and track timelines. Remember however that nominations for many highly prestigious honors are made by individuals outside the nominee's home institution and that nomination processes are often confidential and campaigning is prohibited.
- **Coordinate with OSU honorees:** If available, members at Ohio State who have been elected for membership to a scholarly society or awarded a highly prestigious honor can advise on nomination strategy.

Additional Tips for Growing Strategic Visibility for Nomination Consideration

1. Build a strong, visible research footprint

- Publish in high-impact journals, especially where leaders in your field are reading.
- Present at major national and international conferences where members of the organization often participate.
- Ensure your work is discoverable—online profiles (Google Scholar, ORCID, ResearchGate) are polished and up to date.

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2. Cultivate relationships with existing members

- Collaborate on research projects with organization members or fellows if possible.
- Serve on national committees, review panels, or editorial boards where organization members or fellows are active.
- Attend professional society events and networking opportunities where organization members or fellows are present.

3. Showcase contributions in ways others can see

- Highlight awards, honors, or major grants in CVs and bios - these get noticed by peers who may submit nominations.
- Engage in high-visibility activities, such as keynote talks, workshops, or influential public scholarship.

4. Contribute to the field meaningfully

- Focus on work that is recognized as shaping the discipline: novel methods, impactful findings, or solutions to pressing societal problems.
- Take on leadership roles in professional societies or initiatives that influence the field.

5. Encourage colleagues to recognize your work organically

- While for many awards and honors you cannot ask for a nomination, you *can* make sure your work is visible, cited, and discussed in the right circles.
- Mentors and senior colleagues can write letters for other awards or recognitions -this helps build a reputation that naturally leads to academy awareness.

6. Document your impact clearly

- Keep a concise “impact statement” or summary of your research contributions.
- Highlight interdisciplinary work, collaborations, and societal impact, as these are often noted by nominators.

7. Engage in national or international policy or advisory work

- Serve on advisory boards for government agencies (e.g., NIH, NSF, DOE).
- Contribute to national reports or blue-ribbon panels.
- Provide expert testimony or public science/engineering advice.

8. Position yourself through strategic service and recognition beyond your discipline

- Participate in interdisciplinary centers, institutes, or task forces.
- Get nominated for cross-disciplinary awards or fellowships (e.g., AAAS Fellow, IEEE Fellow).
- Give plenary talks or write review pieces aimed at broader scientific audiences.