

The Society for Economic Botany Charles B. Heiser, Jr. Mentor Award

The Student Committee initiated the Award in 2007 to recognize outstanding economic botanists who have substantially impacted the training and professional development of economic botany and ethnobotany students. The Award is named in honor of Charles B. Heiser, Jr., Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Indiana University who is most known for his hallmark research on the origins of agriculture. He is a past president of the SEB (1978) as well as a Distinguished Economic Botanist (1984). Under his direction and mentorship 29 students received their PhD. This Award, chosen by current students, spotlights dedicated educators who foster the development of the field by example and through student mentoring. It acknowledges mentors who are experienced, knowledgeable, trustworthy friends, counselors, and teachers.

Eligibility Criteria for Nominated Mentors

1. Open to SEB members (closed to non-members)
2. Closed to previous awardees

Eligibility Criteria for Students to Nominate a Mentor

1. Students and recent graduates (within 3 years) who are current SEB members

Mechanisms for Soliciting Nominations from Students

1. Student listserv
2. Plants & People Newsletter
3. Annual SEB meeting (e.g. student mixer)
4. Annual SEB elections

Nominations

Students will submit letters explaining their reasons for nominating a mentor. These can be submitted via email or in a posted letter to the Student Committee chair. (Nominations of names only will not be considered. A letter with multiple signatures will be counted as only once, so each student should write her/ his own letter.)

Criteria for Forming the Committee of Students Who Will Choose the Mentor

1. The committee shall be formed each year and must consist of five people: four voting members (two current members of Student Committee and two general SEB student members) and one non-voting coordinator.
2. All four voting members must abstain from nominating a mentor. The non-voting coordinator may submit a nomination letter before reading any other submitted letters of nomination.
3. The coordinator will be responsible for receiving, organizing, and distributing letters of nomination to the committee after the deadline for submissions. Before distributing the letters to the committee, s/he will remove

or blacken out any identifying information (e.g., name, institution) of the nominee and the letter writer to assure anonymity and then group multiple nominations for the same person together (if they exist).

4. Each of the four voting committee members will individually review all letters and rank their top two choices for a mentor. Together, the committee will discuss their choices and then vote on their top choice (by submitting it via email to the coordinator). The nominee with the most votes will win the award. In the case of a tie, the committee must discuss further and vote again.

Criteria for Committee Members to Consider in Selecting the Mentor

1. Most convincing letters (rated on a scale of 1-5: 1=weak, 2=OK, 3=good, 4=outstanding, 5=exceedingly outstanding and unique)
2. Number of letters
3. In the event that we receive less than 5 nominations, a mentor award will not be selected for that year. These letters will be rolled over for consideration for the next year.

Recognizing the Mentor

Prior to announcing the award, the selected mentor will be notified by email by the SEB Award Chair and the Mentor Coordinator. S/he will be encouraged to attend the SEB annual meeting where s/he will be publicly recognized and presented with the plaque. If the mentor is not present at the meeting, the Mentor Coordinator will publicly recognize the mentor and the plaque will be sent to the mentor after the meeting.

Award

The SEB Award Chair will organize the purchase of a plaque for the Mentor and the recognition ceremony, which will be part of the ceremony for the DEB and Klinger award at the SEB annual meeting.

Timeline

Solicitation:	1 Jan – Listserv, Spring Issue of Newsletter; also solicit nominations via the annual SEB elections
Submissions:	1 Jan – 1 April
Committee Chooses Mentor:	1 May
Mentor and SEB Award Chair is notified:	2 May
Announcing the Mentor:	Annual meeting in June and afterwards in the Newsletter