

Procedures for Nomination to Fellow

Each year the SCRA recognizes individuals for “outstanding and unusual contributions or performance” in community psychology by nominating them for Fellow status in the Society. Persons who are members of the American Psychological Association are also nominated for fellowship in APA. Nominations for Fellow may be self-nominations or may come from a current Fellow of the SCRA. To identify nominees, the chair of the Fellowship Committee solicits nominations from current Fellows and reviews the membership list for candidates deserving of recognition and election to Fellow status. However, with the diversity of activities and settings in which community psychologists work, each year deserving members are overlooked simply because the Fellowship chair or other Fellows are not aware of the candidates’ contributions. Consequently, self-nominations are genuinely encouraged.

The process involves several steps. First, all nominees provide a completed APA Uniform Fellow Blank, a statement describing their “outstanding and unusual” contributions to community research and action, and a vita, and arrange for four to five letters of support. Next, these materials are reviewed by the Society Fellowship Committee, which decides which applicants to recommend to the Executive Committee for Fellow status. All nominees who are approved by the Executive Committee become SCRA Fellows. Names of SCRA Fellows who are APA members are also forwarded to APA for consideration as APA Fellows.

General Criteria for Fellowship Status

Nominees must have been members of the Society for Community Research and Action for at least two years at the time of nomination.

The most difficult judgment that must be made in connection with nominees for Fellow Status is to determine whether or not there has been “unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of community research and action.”

Number of publications, grade-level of an administrative position, academic rank, or number of public addresses, workshops, or committee memberships are not automatic determiners. The contribution to the science or practice of community research and action should be original, and perhaps also a contribution to society as a whole. The following criteria are by no means intended to be exhaustive, but may help Fellowship Committee members frame their judgments regarding a nominee.

- Evidence of steady and continuing competence does not in itself meet the criterion of “outstanding and unusual.”
- The impact of innovations must be documented.
- Accumulation of impact and performance over time must be demonstrated. The minimum standard for Fellowship includes five years of outstanding professional experience, although a longer period of sustained excellence is preferred. There is no degree requirement for SCRA Fellow Status.
- The existence of relevant publications is not enough in either research or practice. Research publications must report impressive work, have impact on the work of others, and have been referred appropriately. Other publications — such as textbooks, handbooks, material developed for public education or public information campaigns must also report impressive work as reflected in impact on targeted readers, widespread usage, and/ or recognition of outstanding

quality by peers. Citation, replication or adoption of the nominees work by others may be an important indicator of the impact of a contribution.

- Offices held in the Society for Community Research and Action, involvement with Society committees and interest groups, political and legislative activity, and the like, while relevant, are rarely enough in themselves to prove contribution — endorsers must show positive impact and contribution beyond the local level.
- Conducting and organizing workshops is not an automatic criterion, but frequent workshop leadership with positive evaluations and evidence of impact over time can be good evidence of contribution.
- The candidate must be a member in the Society for Community Research and Action at the time a nomination is made.

Specific Criteria for Fellowship Status in The Society for Community Research and Action

Fellows must provide evidence of “unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in community research and action.” Commonly, the nominee for Fellow status has a particular area on which the nomination is primarily based, including: (1) community practice and action; (2) research; (3) teaching; or (4) administration or professional service. In other words, the Society seeks to recognize a variety of exceptional contributions that significantly advance the field of community research and action including, but not limited to: theory development, research, evaluation, teaching, intervention, policy development, policy implementation, advocacy, consultation, program development, public education administration, and service. The outstanding contributions may be in more than one category.

1. Community Practice and Action as the Primary Basis

There are many avenues whereby “practice” and “action” can occur at outstanding levels. The practitioner candidate must present a broad history of combined practice and community service with documented impact. Again, the major consideration is the long-term impact on the science and practice of community research and action at the local, state, regional, national and/or international levels. Outstanding contributions may include: demonstrated high quality and innovation in practice; documented broad impact of innovations; demonstrated outstanding impact on local, state and/or national programs; outstanding effective consultation to community settings such as schools, human service organizations, criminal justice agencies, etc.; sufficient program/practice longevity and use to demonstrate the exceptional value and quality of the applications; development or implementation of outstanding programs that challenge the status quo or prevailing conceptual models and applied community methods; organization of innovative conferences or programs within conferences; development of model community interventions; and political or legislative activity with more than local impact; outstanding public education activities, or use of the media for health promotion and/or disease prevention purposes; creative development or implementation of programs that translate theory into successful practice; excellence in working with community constituencies to promote empowerment; and demonstrated excellence in the assessment of program impact or effectiveness; exceptional leadership in a community organization (e.g. board member or committee chair) which has had outstanding impact on community action.

Many community practice and action activities are noteworthy but not outstanding in and of themselves. Examples of these include: lengthy service to community organizations, participation in multiple organizations, development of multiple programs or consultation to multiple organizations at

the local, state or national levels; development of multiple or large conferences, workshops or public education campaigns.

2. Research as the Primary Basis

Unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in research is typically documented by sustained research-based publications in refereed journals. Thus, important considerations may include: a strong publication record; favorable citation and use of one's work by others; development of an influential theory or research method; or qualitative or quantitative empirical findings that contribute to the knowledge base of community research and action.

The following types of contributions do not generally provide convincing evidence of the impact of a nominee's work: abstracts; reports in press or preparation; book chapters in a collection that is co-edited by the nominee; publications limited to a single collection of data; and a long list of publications where the nominee is not primary author and the nominee's role is not explained.

3. Teaching as the Primary Basis

Unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in teaching involves documenting that such performance has led to long-term impact on the development of science and practice of community research and action.

Impact may be at the local, state, regional, national or international level. Teaching excellence may be at multiple levels including undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral or continuing education.

The following achievements suggest a potential for wide impact, though such impact must still be documented by appropriate statements in the nomination forms: demonstrable teaching excellence; outstanding curriculum or program innovations, creative leadership of community psychology or social action teaching or training programs or organizations recognized as outstanding by peers and colleagues, publications such as textbooks, handbooks, and articles used as classroom resources on a wide scale, and having mentored students who have made outstanding contributions to community research and social action.

Certain achievements represent noteworthy contributions in teaching, though not necessarily outstanding contributions. These include: Department chair, director of a training program, large numbers of students taught or mentored.

4. Administration and Professional Service as a Primary Basis

Outstanding contributions in administration or professional service involves leadership activities in the development and successful implementation of organizations, professional groups and activities that have made outstanding contributions to community research and action at the local, state, regional, national or international level.

Outstanding contributions in the following areas should be documented on the nomination forms: creative leadership and administration of organizations that have a significant impact on promoting social action, editor or founder of a quality journal or book series, leadership and initiative that

contributes to the growth and recognition of community research and action nationally, outstanding service on federal advisory or review committees; major participation in scholarly reviewing activities; exceptional service to SCRA and related organizations.

Some achievements while significant are not in and of themselves considered to be outstanding. These include: Department chair for a lengthy period of time; director of a large agency or significant agency; lengthy service as an editor or associate editor of a journal or multiple journals; President or officer of an APA division, local, state or national organization; or recipient of an award by another group.