

Criteria for the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Science

The Governor's Awards for Excellence in Science honor specifically an individual or team within the state whose achievements and contributions to science in South Carolina merit special recognition and promote wider awareness of the quality and extent of scientific activity in South Carolina. Candidates must currently be working in South Carolina or must have conducted a substantial portion of their work within the State.

There are four specific categories of awards.

Excellence in Scientific Research (ESR)

The award is made to a scientist whose contributions to scientific discovery merit special recognition and have impacted the respective discipline on a national and international basis.

Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Scientific Research (YESR)

This award is directed to a gifted young researcher (*only those individuals who have completed no more than 12 years beyond the Ph.D.*) who has demonstrated the potential for major contributions to his or her discipline.

Excellence in Scientific Awareness (ESA)

The award is presented to a candidate whose achievements have had significant impact on science education in South Carolina, have promoted wider awareness of science, and are of such high quality that they merit special recognition. These achievements may be in the realm of formal education activities or service to science through non-formal education in the various media. They should impact science education or science awareness on a regional and national basis as well as South Carolina.

Excellence in Scientific Research at a Predominantly Undergraduate Institution (PUI)

The award recognizes an individual whose achievements and contributions to science over at least a 10-year period at a predominately undergraduate South Carolina university or college merit special recognition.

Collaborative (Team) Awards

Nominations for collaborative projects involving multiple individuals are encouraged and are eligible in each award category. For competitive consideration, clear evidence of collaboration should be demonstrated directed toward a common scientific goal (e.g. via jointly authored publications and multi-investigator grant awards), and letters of support should emphasize the contributions of the team more so than individuals. The research team may include individuals from different institutions or companies.