Mississippi Counseling Association
2017 Awards Nomination

Each year, MCA recognizes outstanding counseling programs, counselors, and contributors for their exemplary commitment and dedication to our profession. These award winners will be honored at the Awards Luncheon during MCA's annual conference which will be held November 8-10, 2017 in Tupelo, MS. If you have any questions related to these awards, please contact the Awards Chair Person via email at MSCounselingAwards@gmail.com.

Awards are given in the following categories:

Counseling Program

- Elementary/Middle School Counseling Program*
- Secondary School Counseling Program*
- College Counseling Program*

Outstanding New Counselor

Counselor of the Year

- Clinical Mental Health Counselor*
- School Counselor*
- College Counselor*
- Public Service Counselor* (i.e., Substance Abuse, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.)

Outstanding Region

Outstanding Contributor

- Community Service Program – MCA Member*
- Community Service Program – Non-MCA Member
- Special Recognition – MCA Member*
- Special Recognition – Non-MCA Member
- Meritorious Service
- Research - Professional*
- Research – Graduate Student
- Janie G. Rugg Career Contributor (min of 5 yrs)

** Nominee must have been a member of MCA for a minimum of three years*

Nomination packets are due no later than 11:59 pm, June 15, 2017, and must be submitted electronically as one complete packet to the Awards Chair Person at MSCounselingAwards@gmail.com.

Please note that if the nominee is selected as an MCA awards recipient, then he/she will need to submit a .jpg photograph to MCA for publication.

MCA Award Nomination Guidelines

COUNSELING PROGRAMS

The purpose of these awards is to recognize comprehensive counseling programs in our educational institutions throughout the state of Mississippi. These programs may be in a public or private setting and are given to programs in the elementary/middle school, secondary, and college level settings.

To be eligible for consideration, a program must:

- Be established for at least three (3) years to allow for appropriate evaluation of program effectiveness
- Include in its staff at least one person who has been a member of MCA for a minimum of three (3) years

The criteria for selection include:

1. Purpose of the program
2. Appropriate evaluation tools
3. Demonstration of effectiveness

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation (from individuals directly impacted by the program)

OUTSTANDING NEW COUNSELOR

The Outstanding New Counselor Award is given in an effort to include counselors who are new to the profession and to encourage their involvement in MCA. The purpose of the award is to recognize a new Mississippi counselor for outstanding service or achievement in a school, college, public service, or private practice setting. Recognition will be based on the extent to which the nominee has been responsible for bringing about innovations in counseling or therapeutic programs; provision of leadership in the further development of existing counseling services, and/or performance of outstanding services to a school, college, community, private practice or mental health facility.

The criteria for selection include:

1. Holding a minimum of a Master's degree in counseling.
2. Being a member of MCA and his/her region and division/interest area for at least one year.
3. Being currently employed, with no more than two years of full-time employment in counseling.
4. Possessing the personal qualities thought to be desirable in a professional counselor.

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation
4. Resume

COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Awards in this area are given to counselors in the clinical, school, college, and public service areas of counseling. The purpose of these awards is to recognize Mississippi counselors for outstanding service or achievement in multiple settings. To be eligible, the nominee must, as a minimum, hold a Master's degree in counseling*; be a member of MCA for a minimum of three years; possess the personal qualities thought to be desirable in a professional counselor; and be currently employed in some phase of counseling work. ** The nominee for the Public Service Counselor Award may hold a bachelor's degree in a related field.*

The criteria for selection include:

1. The extent to which the nominee may have been responsible for bringing about innovations in counseling programs.
2. The provision of leadership in the further development of existing counseling services or the performance of outstanding services to a school, college, community, or mental health facility.

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation
4. Resume

OUTSTANDING REGION

The purpose of this award is to recognize a region within MCA who has worked hard over the year to meet the goals of the Association, to increase membership, and to increase services to members.

The criteria for selection include:

1. Demonstration of goals being met
2. Membership growth
3. Description of membership services

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation (from individuals directly impacted by the region)

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (MCA MEMBER): The award may be given to a MCA member or non-MCA member who led a community service program that made a significant contribution to community in which he/she lives.
The criteria for selection include:

1. Purpose of the program
2. Description of the effectiveness

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation (from individuals directly impacted by the program)

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (NON-MCA MEMBER): The award may be given to a non-MCA member who led a community service program that made a significant contribution to community in which he/she lives.
The criteria for selection include:

1. Purpose of the program
2. Description of the effectiveness

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation (from individuals directly impacted by the program)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – NON-MCA MEMBER: The nominee may be any person who is recognized by others as one who puts forward that special effort to make a project function when it begins to falter and who contributes his/her own time and effort out of interest to the Association.

The criteria for selection include:

1. Description of activities
2. Description of impact to the Association

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – MCA MEMBER: This award recognizes a member of MCA who has made a significant contribution to the function of the Association. The nominee may be any person who is recognized by others as one who puts forward that special effort to make a project function when it begins to falter and who contributes his/her own time and effort out of interest to the Association. This person may not necessarily hold an office, chair a committee, or direct a program but may be active in conference planning, facility arrangements or assuming responsibility for other tasks which are necessary to help the Association run smoothly.

The criteria for selection include:

1. Description of activities
2. Description of impact to the Association

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation

MERITORIOUS SERVICE: The award may be given to an administrator, supervisor, educator, or lay person who has made a significant contribution to the counseling movement in Mississippi. The nominee may be any person other than a counselor and may or may not be a member of MCA. Some contributions for which one may be considered include (but are not limited to):

1. developing support for a counseling program among staff, parents or people in the community
2. implementing an idea or program that serves to improve or enhance the development of counseling.

The criteria for selection include:

1. Description of activities
2. Description of impact to the counseling movement in MS

These criteria should be addressed in a 1-2 page narrative description written by the nominator.

The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description
3. Three Letters of Recommendation

RESEARCH: PROFESSIONAL and GRADUATE STUDENT
The award for research encourages each counselor to carry out organized research in his/her respective field setting. The selection criteria include:

1. Applicability – the research should be specific to counseling.
2. Originality – the research should provide counselors with new information.
3. Validity – the research should be carried out using acceptable procedures.
4. Presentation – the research should be summarized and made available to other counselors in a form which is understandable.

The author must be a member of MCA. In the situation where more than one person works on research, one of the team must be a member of MCA. Research nominations will be accepted from graduate students if they hold student membership in MCA.

The nominating packet for the Professional MCA member must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description written by nominator
3. Copy of Abbreviated Research Vita
4. Copy of Publications within past 3 years

The nominating packet for the Student MCA member must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description of Research written by nominator
3. Copy of Abbreviated Research Vita
4. Copy of Publications

JANIE G. RUGG CAREER CONTRIBUTOR: The Janie G. Rugg Career Contributor Award honors a member of MCA who has contributed significantly over a period of years to the counseling profession in Mississippi. The nominee must have been a member of MCA for the past five (5) years, and the nominee's major responsibility must have been concentrated in a major facet of counseling.
The nominating packet must include:

1. Nomination Cover Page
2. Narrative Description highlighting significant contributions to the counseling profession in the state of MS
3. Three Letters of Recommendation
4. Resume

MCA AWARDS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES
FOR COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

1. Nominations must meet the deadline for submission and be submitted electronically.
2. No more than three (3) letters of support must accompany any one nomination. They must be scanned and submitted electronically as part of the nominations packet.
3. The Awards Committee members will review each nomination packet.
4. All votes by the Awards Committee will be by secret ballot.
5. The Awards Committee will be responsible for the purchase and engraving of all plaques.
6. The chairperson of the Awards Committee will serve as Co-Chair of the Conference Awards Luncheon and will be responsible for coordinating the presentation of all awards, including those recognizing retiring officers.

Mississippi Counseling Association
2017 Awards Nomination
Nomination Form - Individual

Check the Appropriate Category

_____ **Outstanding New Counselor**

Counselor of the Year
- _____ Clinical Mental Health*
- _____ School Counselor*
- _____ College Counselor*
- _____ Public Service Counselor*

Outstanding Contributor
- _____ Special Recognition – MCA Member*
- _____ Special Recognition – non-MCA Member
- _____ Meritorious Service
- _____ Research - Professional*
- _____ Research - Student
- _____ Janie G. Rugg Career Contributor* (5 yrs)

***Nominee must have been a member of MCA for a minimum of three years**

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL APPLICABLE SECTIONS

Name of Nominee: _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Employer: _____

Title of Position: _____ No. of years employed as a counselor: _____

MCA Member: _____ # of Years: _____ (Most awards require a minimum of 3 years MCA membership)

Region: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip:_____

Current Job Duties/Responsibilities: _____

_____

Education: (College and Major):
Undergraduate_____

Graduate_____

Counseling Experience: _____

_____

Participation in Counseling Related Activities outside Specific Job Responsibilities: _____

_____

Awards/Honors: _____

_____

Additional Comments: _____

_____

If additional space is needed to complete any area, please use an additional page with this nomination form. Scan the nominations form, resume and letters of recommendations and submit electronically as one document.

Mississippi Counseling Association
2017 Awards Nomination
Nomination Form – Program/Project

Check the Appropriate Categories:

Counseling Program
_____ Elementary/Middle School*
_____ Secondary School*
_____ College*

Outstanding Contributor
_____ Community Service Program – MCA Member
_____ Community Service Program – Non-MCA Member

***Nominee must have been a member of MCA for a minimum of three years**

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL APPLICABLE SECTIONS:

Name of Program: _____

Location: _____

Date program was implemented: _____

Member of MCA affiliated with program/Number of years: _____

Additional Staff Members associated with program: _____

_____

Purpose of program: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mississippi Counseling Association
2017 Awards Nomination
Nomination Form - Outstanding Region

Name of Region: _____

Region Officers (Title/Name): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Membership in 2014: _____

Membership in 2015: _____

Membership in 2016: _____

Brief Description of Goals Met: _____

_____

_____

Brief Description of Membership Services: _____

_____

_____