

**Professional Awards in Statistics:
Chipping Away at Gender Disparities in the USA**

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Abstract

Statistical association awards are external validations of high-level individual accomplishments in statistics; they can be expected to boost careers and inspire role models within the statistics community. Evidence indicates women in the USA receive fewer statistical association awards for research and scholastic achievements than would be expected based on the numbers of women in the availability pools. Increasing the numbers of women who win statistics awards can be expected to improve the status of women in statistics. This paper aims to bring professional association awards best practices in the USA to the attention of the international statistical community. This paper will present new ideas on how to advance women in statistical association awards processes. Awards and award procedures of the American Statistical Association (ASA) will be described. Historical and current ASA awards data will be presented by gender. Availability pool data by gender from various sources will be explored. The Association for Women in Science's (AWIS) "Advancing Ways of Awarding Recognition in Disciplinary Societies" (AWARDS) project, funded by the National Science Foundation, will be described. Resources available to help improve professional society awards processes will be highlighted. ASA participation in the AWARDS project workshops will be reviewed, including recommendations of ASA representatives in, and initiatives following, the first workshop. New ideas for statistics professional awards that are informed by best practices and discussions with other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professional society leaders at the second (most recent) AWARDS project workshop will be given in this paper.

Key Words: prizes, recognition, status of women, unconscious bias