

Preparing a Successful Application for the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award

The Division of Research offers the following tips to assist faculty as they apply for the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award.

Applicants should carefully review all instructions, qualifications, and application package requirements. Be sure to include and/or address each item requested. The application package should include the following documents in this order:

- Cover page
- Table of contents
- Nomination letter
- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Significant publications or scholarly works
- Short biography of the nominee
- Letter of recommendation from a peer
- Letter of recommendation from nominee's dean, department chair, or supervisor (if not provided as a letter of nomination)
- Letter from an external community representative

All documents should be combined into one PDF application package prior to submission. This enables you to order documents appropriately and reduce the likelihood of errors. It also streamlines reviewers' efforts to identify each component of the application.

Please use the following format for the file name:

<year> Harry Reid – First Last.pdf

Components of the Application

Cover Page, Table of Contents, and Header

- Include a cover page with first and last name, title, department, college, and award applying to.
- Include a table of contents page. For table of contents templates, please review the award's webpage.
- Add a page header in the top right for all pages with pertinent information (e.g., Sheets – Harry Reid Silver State Research Award – Page 001).

Nomination Letter

- The up to two-pages formal nomination letter must be written by an NSHE peer, chair, dean, or supervisor is required.
- The nomination letter should comprehensively address how the nominee has performed research that is both highly regarded and responsive to the needs of the community and state. Rather than listing the nominee's qualifications, a successful nomination letter will provide evidence of the scale and impact of the nominee's research. The letter should provide address how the nominee meets one or more of the following award criteria:
 - Directly and positively affects the economic growth and development of Nevada.
 - Addresses a relevant social need in the community and/or region.
 - Demonstrably advances significant scholarship in an academic field of knowledge.
- The letter should use language that will be understood by reviewers from other disciplines (i.e., writing for the intelligent layperson).

Letter of Application

A description (up to five pages) highlighting the candidate's research program is required. The letter should outline research activities and how they meet at least one and ideally all of the three criteria for the award:

- Directly and positively affects the economic growth and development of Nevada.
- Addresses a relevant social need in the community and/or region.
- Demonstrably advances significant scholarship in an academic field of knowledge.

Curriculum Vitae

The CV must clearly delineate the level of peer review of contributions. Include a list of grants, contracts, or fellowships received.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Directly and positively affects the economic growth and development of Nevada. (20 max points)
- Addresses a pressing social need in the community and/or region (20 max points)
- Demonstrably advances significant scholarship in an academic field of knowledge. (20 max points)
- Quality and quantity of publications/creative work. (20 max points)
- International or National Grants/Fellowships. (10 max points)
- Mentoring activities and success. (10 max points)

Most Significant Publications or Scholarly Works

Example (reprints or copies) of significant publications or scholarly works (maximum of 5).

Biography

A short (half page) biography of the nominee.

Letters of Recommendation

Nominees must submit three letters of support (maximum of 3 pages each). One from a peer, one from the nominee's dean, department chair, or supervisor (if not provided as a letter of nomination), and one from an external community representative.

Letters of support should come from individuals best positioned to affirm the excellence and impact of the nominee's research and their deservingness of the award.

- Letters should provide specific examples of the nominee's accomplishments and quality of work, rather than generalized praise.