

Guidelines

Awards for U.S.-Mexico Cross-Border Cooperation and Innovation

The Border Research Partnership will sponsor awards recognizing extraordinary experiences of U.S.-Mexico cross-border cooperation. Awards will honor bi-national collaboration and innovation in public safety, transportation planning, environmental stewardship, education, health, and the arts, among other fields.

Awardees will be selected by a prestigious selection committee, reflecting the bi-national identity, diversity, and spirit of the border—with members from business, government, academia, and the non-profit sector. Awards will be conferred in tandem with the 2011 Border Governors Conference and in association with the Border Legislative Conference—with travel paid for winning entries.

The publication of a bilingual book profiling all award finalists will serve to tell the often-overlooked success stories of U.S.-Mexico collaboration, emphasizing the good work of institutions, non-profits, and other organizations.

Eligibility criteria

Successful entries will profile extraordinary experiences—cases, instances, displays, and demonstrations—of cross-border cooperation and collaboration. Successful entries will demonstrate how such experiences benefit the lives of border-region residents in innovative ways.

Entries may be submitted by accredited non-profit non-governmental organizations, as well as by those state or local government agencies or departments that coordinate relevant programs, initiatives, or projects. Applicants must be based within the 10-state border region.

Strong applications will profile experiences that demonstrate clear stakeholder involvement on both sides of the border and that emphasize the importance of common regional interests and concerns. Experiences may include cross-border exchanges, bi-national events, or be the results of work, programming, or other organized efforts. They may culminate from long-term planning or result from a rapid response to an immediate need.

Application and selection process

Applications will consist of an entry form and essay. Entry forms will seek basic information about the applicant and a basic description of the experience being submitted for consideration. English-language entry forms are available in the section following these guidelines.

Essays

Essays will enable a fuller description of the experience being submitted and may address the following questions:

- How has the experience helped to benefit the lives of border-region residents?
- How has this experience demonstrated innovative practices of cross-border collaboration?
- What have been the principal advances and challenges encountered?
- What more still remains to be achieved?
- How can cross-border cooperation be advanced to benefit both countries?

Essays are asked to range from 500 to 750 words in English or from 600 to 900 words in Spanish. Finalists' essays will be included in a publication that will accompany the awards and, for this reason, may be slightly adjusted for length and style.

Key dates

Entry deadline: Monday, April 18, 2011

Winners formally notified: Late May 2011

Awards ceremony: September 2011 (date and location yet to be finalized)

Applications in either language consisting of entry form and essay may be sent to Robert Donnelly at robert.donnelly@wilsoncenter.org and/or Kristofer Patrón at kpatron@colef.mx