

Notes on potential guidelines for the Carolyn Shaw Bell award

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Background: The competition for the Carolyn Shaw Bell award has become so strong in recent years, that we believe it would be useful for CSWEP to clarify and elaborate on the award criteria, to aid nominators in choosing appropriate nominees and in assembling effective nomination packets.

Criteria for selection:

The CSB award was created to reward scholars who devote substantial amounts of creative energy to advancing women in economics. These efforts can take many forms, from being a superb scholar and mentor to one's own students, to initiating new programs that help many women to advance in the field. On the occasion of the 2019 Carolyn Shaw Bell award, we offer some suggestions for clarifying the criteria for the award, in the hopes of giving potential nominators a clearer idea of what the selection committee considers in making its choices.

Role model: *Leading by example, achievements.* Nearly all nominations emphasize the nominee's academic career, including accomplishments, awards and achievements. As academic economists, we are all accustomed to doing this in letters evaluating each-others' work, and it is certainly appropriate to include this information in the nomination. But a typical recipient of the award will be not only a fantastic professional economist, but also an explicit advocate for women. This can come in the form of serving on relevant committees of professional organizations, or engaging in institutional change in one's home institution (for recruiting, evaluating, or promoting women) or making important changes in other organizations. Making the nature and impact of these activities clear can be an important part of a nomination portfolio.

Research: *Understanding how women can advance.* One element that appears in some portfolios is research *about* women, especially about women in economics. The more this work serves to help understand and promote women's careers in economics, the more important its contribution to the success of a nomination. The nomination letter should make clear the content and relevance of the research for advancing women in economics.

Mentoring others: Every nomination emphasizes the quality of the candidate's mentoring of their own students and junior faculty, and indeed this is an important element of the nomination. Supporting letters from students and junior faculty mentees often constitute the most convincing and moving element of a nomination. However, what distinguishes nominations is mentoring activity *beyond what is expected* as a normal part of a nominee's position. We look for women who reach outside their own student/faculty networks to mentor others, especially those who initiate new mentoring activities or programs in their work place or through professional organizations.