As chair of the IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) Awards Department, I have the great honor of introducing a new Society-level award, the IAS Outstanding Educator/Mentor Award. This new accolade was recently approved by the IAS Executive Board and the IEEE Technical Activities Board and will be introduced in 2019.

The purpose of the IAS Outstanding Educator/Mentor award is to highlight an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the education and/or mentorship of students and young engineers in the IAS’s fields of interest. In this regard, the scope of the IAS is the development and application of electrical systems, apparatuses, devices, and controls for the processes and equipment of industry and commerce; the promotion of safe, reliable, and economical installations; the encouragement of energy conservation; and the creation of voluntary standards and recommended practices.

The IAS will present the Outstanding Educator/Mentor Award annually. In selecting a recipient, the IAS Outstanding Educator/Mentor Award Committee (OEMAC) will consider nominees’ contributions and service, which may have been through education, mentorship, teaching, or the stimulation of students and young professionals in the Society’s fields. Any IEEE or non-IEEE member will be eligible for the prize. The OEMAC will recommend if the honor should be for outstanding educator or outstanding mentor.

Selection Criteria
The selection criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:
- the development of educational materials, such as books, course materials, papers on education, audiovisual teaching materials, online courses, and similar instructional aides
- relevant teaching/mentorship activities involving the encouragement of students and young professionals in bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral courses through supervision activities, conference tutorials, webinars, and online tutorials
- the mentoring of students or professionals in the industry to help further their understanding of technology and market dynamics, toward enhancing their career
- innovations in teaching/mentoring, such as the development of new teaching methodologies, materials, and courses; teaching laboratory equipment development, and industry training
- research activities relevant to excellence in the teaching and training of students and young professionals, including inventions, patents, and utility models, and descriptions of how these activities increase teaching/mentoring excellence
- virtuosity in teaching/mentorship, as measured by the awards and recognitions received by the candidate and former students/young coworkers as well as relevant positions held by former students/young coworkers
- the development/presentation of IAS conference tutorials and IAS Resource Center content
- the creation of and participation in university/industry training activities for students and young professionals
- tutoring university master’s and doctoral students in enterprise internship training.

Nomination and Selection Procedure
The award will be administered by the IAS Awards Department, which has established the nomination process.
The OEMAC will evaluate nominations and recommend a recipient to the Awards Department chair, including whether the recognition is for outstanding educator or outstanding mentor. Members of the OEMAC are preliminarily selected by the Awards Department chair and then appointed by the Executive Board. The committee will consist of three to five Society members, including at least three previous recipients of the award (when applicable).

Each January, nominations will be solicited through the Awards Nominations Committee, IEEE Industry Applications Magazine, Executive Board members, and the IAS Operating Departments. To be considered as a nominee, a simple-format, four-page form must be completed, describing a nominee’s IAS activities and associated contributions. It must be submitted and received by the IAS Awards Department chair before the specified due date of 15 March. Self-nomination is not permitted. The IAS president and Awards Department chair will compile the nominations, which are then presented to the OEMAC for evaluation and the selection of a recommended recipient by 15 April.

Selection is based on a person’s total contribution to the profession through any and all IEEE IAS activities in which the candidate is engaged. Each OEMAC member will receive the data for all nominees and prepare an evaluation ballot for each candidate. The OEMAC chair will collect the ballots and tabulate the results in a spreadsheet. The OEMAC members will then meet (by conference call or in person) to discuss the numerical results and judge the most deserving candidate.

All other Society-level award nominations are accepted only in electronic format by completing the corresponding form available at https://ias.ieee.org/awards.html. Further information about all of the Society awards can also be found on this webpage.

It took almost two years to launch this award, from its conception in 2017 to its inauguration in 2019. It has been a team effort by all of the IAS Executive Board members, who contributed to improving the different aspects of the award through many discussions at several board meetings. Special thanks go to Dave Durocher, IAS past president, who strongly supported the project to create this honor and helped a great deal in making it a reality. Thanks also go to IAS Executive Director Patrick McCarren and Society Program Specialist Lynda Bernstein, who helped with all of the related paperwork and processing.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of you to reflect about our most deserving colleagues and submit a nomination for this or any other Society-level award. The nomination process is straightforward and will not take more than a half hour, provided all of the required information is included. Nominations are open every year from 1 January to 15 March. For comments and suggestions on this or any other IAS award, please feel free to contact me at marcos@ieee.org. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

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**ELECTRICAL SAFETY** (continued from page 7)

- Make sure each worker has some time to think over the job.
- Remind the employees about the cost of an injury.
- Get to the job early, if possible, to set up ahead of time.
- Watch the progress during the job, don’t let it move too fast.
- Ask for ideas from the workers to ensure a safer job.

What is your estimated percentage of industrial electrical fatalities where being in a hurry was a factor? If it’s around 33%, like driving on the road, then we can certainly make some progress and save lives by slowing down!