IEEE Student Branch Awards

by J. Patrick Donohoe

IEEE Student Branches are crucial to the growth and development of IEEE Student Members by providing a local organization through which students can network with fellow students, faculty members, and professionals in the field. Student Branches offer numerous educational, technical, and professional activities focused on advancing Student Members in their educational careers and beyond. Effective Student Branches rely on the hard work and devotion of their volunteer leaders. For this reason, the IEEE has created several Student Branch awards to recognize the tireless efforts of these volunteers. The annual deadline for Student Branch award nominations is 1 February.

The IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor and Branch Chapter Advisor Award recognizes the dedicated efforts of Student Branch counselors and Student Chapter advisors. The primary criteria for selection are the enthusiastic support of the branch counselor, or branch advisor, by his or her students and the commitment he or she has made to the engineering profession by fostering activities that encourage the development of IEEE Student Members. The evaluation of the award nomination is based on evidence of an active Student Branch, consistent branch membership or growth in membership, effective branch planning, support for the Student Branch leaders, and work to nurture interaction between the Student Branch and the local IEEE Section.

The IEEE understands the value of team leadership in the operation of an effective Student Branch. For this reason, the IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award provides public recognition of exemplary IEEE Student Branch operations, with no limit on the number of awards presented. All Student Branches that demonstrate exemplary operation in a manner consistent with the goals of the IEEE, and document the required activities, are recognized with this award.

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The Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award annually recognizes, in each Region of the IEEE, the Student Member most responsible for an extraordinary accomplishment associated with Student Activities. The IEEE recognizes the value of a Student Member who shows a pattern of dedication and ongoing service to a Student Branch/Student Branch Chapter. The Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award also honors the extraordinary effort of a Student Member related to a particular event, program, or product of IEEE Student Activities.

The purpose of the Darrel Chong Student Activity Award is to change the mind-set of our student groups from being number driven to becoming value driven and to acknowledge exemplary student activities around the world. The goal is to improve the quality of activities and foster knowledge sharing among students. Ultimately, the initiative is targeted at improving student membership growth, which will encourage and motivate students to continue to innovate and implement meaningful ideas.

For more information on IEEE Student Awards and the submission of nominations, visit https://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/students/index.html.

About the author
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