

Eve's Thoughts on Award Nominations

1. I think women are nominated less for awards (CoE story).
2. Your awards are good for your department and college.
3. When women win awards, it counters the myth that there aren't good women scientists and engineers. It also increases the pool of women nominators and women on awards committees.
4. Always keep your eyes open for good fits.
5. Find obscure/misunderstood/under-tapped awards. Similarly, I avoid competitive nominations, e.g. Waterman Award.
6. Be persistent – sometimes the third time is a charm.
7. Identifying the candidate for the award is a big percentage of the work. Put in 20-30 minutes on a first pass of the nomination statement. Then pass it off to the candidate.
8. The nominee knows their contributions and qualifications better than anyone else. You need them to give you content. However, they may not be good at tooting their own horn so you may have to press them to help you. You may also need to beef up what they write.
9. Recycle award nominations. Reuse letters from tenure packages, grad school applications, or other award nominations as much as possible.
10. Don't be shy. If you think there is an award for which you are well qualified, ask someone to nominate you. But think about returning the favor to him/her someday. (Think of this like carpools or playdates.)
11. If your candidate is successful, take the lead on getting your department/college to publicize the award. What good is winning an award if no one notices?
12. If you successfully nominate someone for an award, people may try to get you to nominate this person for another award. (This has happened to me.) I prefer to spread my efforts around. So when this happens, I send them the winning package and tell them to help themselves to the material.