

BTI Alumni Recognition Program

The BTI Alumni Recognition Program celebrates the success of outstanding BTI Alumni and recognizes the foundation that their BTI experience provided. BTI Alumni Recognition Awards are intended to honor exceptional individuals and their accomplishments, particularly as they relate to research, education, or scientific communication.

Up to two awardees may be named annually, one “Early Career” alum and one “Distinguished Career” alum.

Eligibility Guidelines and Criteria

Anyone who has previously worked at the Boyce Thompson Institute, and at any level, (undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral), is considered a BTI alum. This includes former interns, researchers, professors, and students.

Candidates for these awards should be BTI Alumni who have notably advanced their career after their work experience at BTI, particularly as it relates to research, education, or scientific communication. The alum’s achievements may be in academia, industry, or any public or private sector related to BTI’s mission.

Recognition may be earned through one or more of the following achievements:

- **Career** – The individual has achieved recognition for outstanding contributions to his/her profession or career.
- **Outstanding Service** – The individual has provided outstanding service in support of science or the greater research community. Service can be local, national, or global, (e.g. mentorship to early-career researchers at BTI, public education/science outreach, raising awareness about BTI, etc.)
- **Philanthropy** – The individual has made or influenced significant contributions to support discovery research, education programs, or innovative projects at BTI.

Guidelines for Early Career vs. Distinguished Career awards:

- **Early Career Award** - Nominees should be under the age of 40 years old *and* hold a title/position equal to or below the level of Assistant Professor. If the nominee is pursuing a non-academic career, (e.g. in industry, or in a non-research sector) the equivalency of their position level should be considered relative to their sector.
- **Distinguished Career Award** - Nominees should be well established within their industry/sector.

Alumni Recognition Program Committee

The selection committee should be composed of 5 – 7 members representing at least 3 – 4 BTI constituencies, such as:

- 1 Advancement representative (*serves as committee chair & program coordinator*)
- PGS (*at least 1 representative*)
- Faculty (*at least 1 representative*)
- Education Outreach (*at least 1 representative*)
- Emeritus Faculty or committee-appointed BTI Alum (*at least 1 representative*)

Nomination Process

A call for nominations will be announced annually. Nominations can be made throughout the year by any BTI employee, researcher, student, Emeritus Faculty, or member of the alumni community, (self-nominations are allowed). The nominator shall submit a nomination form substantiating why the nominee's achievements merit the award.

Application Deadline

The deadline is rolling.

Selection Process

A call for nominations will be announced annually, beginning in fall of 2017. The selection committee shall meet semiannually (or as needed) to review all nominations received over the past 6 – 12 months. The committee may select up to one "Early Career" and one "Distinguished Career" awardee per calendar year.

Notification

Awardees will be notified before an award announcement is made and other nominees will be informed of the decision.

Award Announcement

Award announcements will be shared via appropriate media forums, newsletters, and alumni communications. Awardees may also be highlighted in BTI's Annual Report.

Awards & Recognition

Honorees shall receive:

- A plaque in honor of their selection as a Distinguished Alumni. Additionally, the individual's name will be permanently displayed on a plaque in the BTI Atrium along with other Distinguished Alumni. The Institutional Advancement budget shall be responsible for this cost.
- A speaking or networking opportunity at BTI, if appropriate.
- BTI "nostalgia" tour.