

## ASDSO AWARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ASDSO annually honors those individuals and organizations making exemplary contributions to the improvement of dam safety in the U.S. through its awards program.



- **National Rehabilitation Project of the Year (Yearly)**
- **Regional Dam Safety Awards (Yearly)**
- **Young Professional of the Year (As Appropriate)**
- **Bruce Tschantz Public Safety at Dams (As Appropriate)**
- **Media Outreach (As Appropriate)**
- **Danny McCook Medal (As Appropriate)**
- **Terry L. Hampton Medal (As Appropriate)**
- **National Award of Merit (Yearly)**
- **Joseph J. Ellam President's Award (Yearly)**

---

### National Rehabilitation Project of the Year

#### OVERVIEW

This award recognizes a unique remedial design for a project of any size that advances the state-of-the-art in the field of dam safety and exemplifies the professional engineering and construction standards that dam safety requires. The award is presented to the individual, company, agency, or organization whose project is judged to best represent those qualities from among this year's group of qualified nominees. Recognition is given to the dam owner and designer. Nominators may also choose to recognize contractors. All project construction must be completed and the project in full operation by April 30 of that year. Only finished projects will be considered.

The Awards Committee and the ASDSO Board of Directors will consider nominees. The Board of Directors will make the final selection.

(Continued)

## AWARD CRITERIA

Projects will be judged using the following general criteria:

- Resourcefulness in planning and permitting.
  - Achieving a successful resolution to the problem(s) or deficiencies encountered.
  - Pioneering efforts in the use of construction procedures or materials.
  - Innovations in design methods or project operations.
  - Conservative and reliable design that is consistent with accepted engineering practices and standards of care in the field of dam safety.
- 

## **Regional Dam Safety Awards**

Regional Dam Safety Awards recognize smaller projects, dam owners, and other entities that have made an impact at a local, county, state, or regional level. While efforts may not be state-of-the-art or impact the industry nationally, recipients have made exemplary community contributions. The awards recognize collaboration, community impact, innovative funding, and cost-effectiveness. They also recognize social and environmental responsibility.

Recipients could include:

- Dam owners or operators of dams that have shown marked improvement in maintaining or rehabilitating their dam(s) and/or their dam safety programs.
- Individuals who have made exemplary contributions to dam safety in their communities.
- Dam owners who have completed a rehabilitation that benefits a specific area, state, or region, but the project does not rise to the level of the National Dam Rehabilitation Project of the Year Award.

This award is not intended to recognize contributions to ASDSO as an organization, specific state or federal dam safety programs, or dam safety officials.

One Regional Dam Safety Award will be presented in each ASDSO region. ASDSO regions can be found at <https://damsafety.org/regions>.

ASDSO regional representatives will select a recipient from their region. Some nominations may also be reviewed by state representatives in the region.

---

## **Young Professional of the Year**

### OVERVIEW

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) Young Professional Award recognizes members under 35 years of age working in the dam safety field that have made outstanding contributions to the association, their respective organization, or the dam safety industry in general.

### AWARD CRITERIA

This award is intended to recognize the overall contributions of an individual. Suggested criteria for this award include:

- Recent noteworthy efforts and accomplishments in the field of dam safety.
- Service to the advancement of the profession.
- Evidence of technical competence, high character, and integrity.
- Exemplary contributions to dam safety in their communities or organizations.
- Leadership in the development of younger member attitudes towards the profession and the association.
- Other evidence of merit, which in the committee's judgment, advanced the association's objectives.

Representatives of the ASDSO Young Professional Interest Group will review the nominations. The ASDSO Board of Directors will confirm any recipients. The award may be awarded every year at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

---

## **Bruce Tschantz Public Safety at Dams**

### OVERVIEW

ASDSO established this award in 2017 to recognize and celebrate Dr. Bruce Tschantz's lifetime achievements in dam safety, his contributions to ASDSO, and his efforts to improve public safety around dams. The award will be given to someone who takes on the "local champion" role and works to improve public safety around dams. Often, action would only be taken with their efforts.

(Continued)

## AWARD CRITERIA

Nominees should have improved public safety around dams by:

- raising public awareness about safety hazards around dams,
- encouraging dam owners to take responsibility for ensuring public safety at dam sites,
- actively participating in research efforts aimed at mitigating safety hazards around dams, or
- furthering efforts to carry out safety modifications at hazardous dam sites.

The recipient can also be a model dam owner who has significantly improved the public safety program for their dams.

Representatives of the ASDSO Public Safety at Dams Committee will review the nominations. The ASDSO Board of Directors will confirm any recipients. The award may be awarded every year at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

---

## **Media Outreach**

### OVERVIEW

ASDSO established this award in 2017 to recognize media outlets and journalists whose work on dam safety issues has enhanced the:

- public understanding of the impact dams have on society,
- the role they play as key components of public infrastructure,
- ramifications of dam safety incidents, or
- other noteworthy contributions to dam safety.

Recipients may include those who work in print, broadcasting, digital, and other media platforms.

### AWARD CRITERIA

Nominees will be judged based on how well they:

- fairly cover all sides of a dam safety project(s) or issue(s),
- accurately describe the dam safety project(s) or issue(s),
- effectively explain how the project or outcome of the issue affected the community or region,
- utilize knowledgeable dam safety experts, and
- advance public knowledge and understanding of the need to reduce the risk and consequences of dam failure in the U.S.

A nominee's cumulative body of work related to dam safety or a single story can also be considered. The award may be presented to one nominee or a team.

Representatives from the ASDSO Media Outreach Committee and appropriate ASDSO staff will review the nominations. The ASDSO Board of Directors will confirm any recipients. The award may be awarded every year at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

---

## **Danny McCook Medal**

### OVERVIEW

This Medal was established by the Affiliate Member Advisory Committee, now known as the ASDSO Advisory Committee (AdCom), to recognize Danny McCook's lifetime achievements in the field of geotechnical engineering and his contributions to ASDSO and the AdCom.

Danny McCook was an engineer who made major contributions and advancements to the geotechnical engineering practice for dam safety in the United States. After a long and distinguished 40+ year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), Danny continued to consult in the dam safety arena until his untimely passing. He was a life-long student of geotechnical engineering as it applies to dam safety, and he was always willing to share his knowledge and experience through papers, presentations, short courses, webinars, telephone calls, and face-to-face conversations. Danny and his contributions will continue to be sorely missed by ASDSO and the rest of the dam safety community. The award consists of a medal and a certificate.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE BASIS OF SELECTION

- The Medal will be awarded for outstanding contributions to the advancement of technical research, education, and/or practice in geotechnical engineering for dams on a national or international level.
- The Medal will ordinarily be granted for cumulative distinguished technical contributions in geotechnical engineering for dams. In exceptional cases, it may be awarded for a single contribution of outstanding merit.
- Although not an explicit criterion, consideration may be given to the breadth and impact of geotechnical contributions that advance ASDSO programs, initiatives, or technical objectives.

(Continued)

- The Medal may be awarded every year at the discretion of the selection committee and will be limited to one individual, unless a nomination is based on work which was a joint effort of a substantial duration.
- No individual shall receive the Medal more than once.

The nominations will be reviewed, and the recipient chosen by the ASDSO Advisory Committee.

---

## **Terry L. Hampton Medal**

### OVERVIEW

This Medal was established by the Affiliate Member Advisory Committee, now known as the ASDSO Advisory Committee (AdCom), to recognize Terry L. Hampton's lifetime achievements in the field of hydrology and hydraulics and his contributions to ASDSO and the AdCom. Terry, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, was a member of ASDSO since its inception and was a past chair of AdCom, a frequent speaker and moderator at ASDSO conferences, and the recipient of the President's Award in 1996 and the Mid-West Regional Award of Merit in 2003. The award consists of a medal and a certificate.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE BASIS OF SELECTION

- The Medal will be awarded for outstanding contributions to the advancement of technical research, education, and/or practice in hydrologic and hydraulic engineering for dams on a national or international level.
- The Medal will ordinarily be granted for cumulative distinguished technical contributions in hydrologic and hydraulic engineering for dams. In exceptional cases, it may be awarded for a single contribution of outstanding merit.
- Although not an explicit criterion, consideration may be given to the breadth and impact of geotechnical contributions that advance ASDSO programs, initiatives, or technical objectives.
- The Medal may be awarded every year at the discretion of the selection committee and will be limited to one individual, unless a nomination is based on work which was a joint effort of a substantial duration.
- No individual shall receive the Medal more than once.

The nominations will be reviewed, and the recipient chosen by the ASDSO Advisory Committee.

---

## **National Award of Merit**

Chosen by the ASDSO Board of Directors, this award honors an individual or entity contributing to dam safety on a national level.

---

## **Joseph J. Ellam President's Award**

This award is named in honor of ASDSO's first president, Joe Ellam of Pennsylvania. It is given annually by the current president to an individual who has made a significant impact during their term.

---