

Lisa Hvan and Sergei Thai

## Academic Excellence Award

The Academic Excellence Award celebrates outstanding teacher-student teams and financially supports innovative class projects teaching the love of learning, understanding of research, appreciation of great traditions and respect for people of other cultures.



The Academic Excellence Award salutes the talent and traditions of Bosniaks. However, the competition is open to all professors and students of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sandžak region of Serbia and Montenegro. Multiethnic teams are particularly encouraged to apply.

**New Energy for the Classroom** Often professors and students have exciting, creative project ideas but no funding. Setting-up an experiment, documenting history or building a prototype needs support. A teacher wants to spend extra time on work with students but worries about expenses. Classes would like to go for study trip but cannot go without financial support. A professor may want to visit another university to learn a new method. Unfortunately, lack of funding can block the very best ideas.

The Academic Excellence Award is designed to bring new energies and funding opportunities to the classroom. Professor-student teams can apply for the Academic Excellence Award recognition with a proposed, innovative class project meeting the Award expectations and with a description of their track record of educational successes.

The monetary component of the award provides funding for a class project. It is anticipated that each award will be somewhere in the range of \$500 (United States dollars) depending on submitted budgets, number of recipients and availability of funding.

**Eligibility criteria** are the following:

- The competition is open to high school teachers and university professors of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sandžak region of Serbia and Montenegro.
- Only teachers and professors born and currently living in the above listed areas are eligible for application and consideration.
- Teachers/professors with record of accomplishments and support by senior leaders of the school, students and community representatives are eligible for consideration.

**Applications** The competition is open to all ethnic groups of the above listed regions. Professors and students of minority serving universities, religious high schools and medresas are encouraged to apply. Applications should be submitted electronically (see attached forms and technical guide).

- Submission address: [ffapplications@gmail.com](mailto:ffapplications@gmail.com)

- Deadline: midnight (Sarajevo time), January 31, 2010

**Review and Selection** After careful evaluation of all eligible applications, the award recipients will be chosen by the International Award Council of the Fondacija Bošnjak Predvodnik (sponsored by the Forerunner Federation). Every year, one to five awards will be presented to selected outstanding professor-student teams. Initially, the Foundation makes a three year commitment to sponsor the annual Academic Excellence Awards.

**From Awards to Success** The Award Certificate is presented by the director/president of the school at the annual graduation celebration, concert or similarly largely attended public event. Throughout the entire project, students who actively support the proposed class project should be clearly identifiable and also visible at the time of the award recognition.

At the conclusion of the award project, recipients are asked to send a one page thank you letter to the designated representative or benefactor of the Foundation. The letter should summarize the outcomes of the project, actual use of funds and, if appropriate, express appreciation for the difference made by the award in the recipients life. Photos of professor student teams, results of projects or funded work are optional but appreciated.

**Legacy** This Academic Excellence Award commemorates the aspirations and legacy of Lisa Hvan and Sergei Thai, parents of five university-educated children, from a small, remote farming community in Uzbekistan becoming successful worldwide.

## FORERUNNER FEDERATION

### Technical Guide for Electronic Submission of Applications

1. **Prepare a PDF File of Your Application** The Foundation accepts only electronically submitted applications in Acrobat Reader accessible pdf file attached to an email message. There are several ways to produce pdf files:

- many scanners create pdf files as a result of the paper scanning process. This is the most likely method you will use to convert signed paper documents.
- there are several downloadable programs on the internet that can be effectively used to "print" word, picture or other types of files into pdf files (e.g., Cutepdf).

2. **Integrate Pages in the Required Sequence** Please pay close attention to the required sequence of documents in your application. An organized application gets good scores more easily than a disorganized application. Most pdf readers let you rearrange the pages and save the entire new file. Feel free to create multiple pdf files during preparation. In the final step, you should sequence and merge all component files into one pdf application file. In Adobe Acrobat, the process of merger includes an opportunity to sequence the component files.

3. **File Size between 1--7 Mbytes** The maximum size of the pdf attachment is 7MBytes (larger files often do not transmit well). There are several ways to control size:

- All component files before conversion should be sufficiently small so their combined total size is comfortably below 7MByte. Do not try to include an 8 MByte picture file!
- Many pdf makers allow you to print a pdf file into pdf again with specified parameters restricting resolution and size of embedded images (see printing preferences).
- Many pdf makers have a reduce file size option on their scroll down menus.

Most frequently, a combination of several of the above options leads to the desired file size, somewhere between 1MByte and 7MBytes.

4. **Application File Name must be Your Name** The name of the attached, integrated single application file should be the name of the applicant (e.g., JohnDoe.pdf)

5. **Submit via Email Before the Deadline** The email address for electronic submission is ffapplications@gmail.com. The subject line of the email message should define the competition to which you are submitting the application (e.g., Academic Excellence Award). There should be only one attachment to the application email message, the above described single pdf file.

**Watch for Feedback** Application receipt is recognized by a brief feedback email message within 48 hours. If not, please send an email inquiry to szekelyvanguard@gmail.com.