



**NATIONAL  
EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE**  
February 3-5, 2026

## **Awards Presented at the National Education Conference**

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### ***Meritorious Service Awards (1 of each per region, ARS and HQ)***

Deadline for Nomination: Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- One award will be issued to an IR-4 employee from each region, ARS, and headquarters at the National Education Conference based on the following criteria:
    - Length of service to IR-4
    - Special service to IR-4
    - Innovation in program development and implementation
    - Scientific merit encompassing IR-4 contributions
  - Recipients of these awards will be identified by regional/HQ management including the Regional Director, Laboratory Regional Director, Regional Quality Assurance Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator and HQ Management.
  - Regional, ARS and Headquarters Management should send their one identified recipient to IR-4 HQ via email at [ir-4\\_project@ncsu.edu](mailto:ir-4_project@ncsu.edu) by close of business (PT) on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Please send the one selected recipient by copying and using [THIS TEMPLATE](#).
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### ***Technical Service Awards (1 of each per region, ARS and HQ)***

Deadline for Nomination: Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- One award will be issued to an IR-4 employee in each region, ARS, and headquarters for their outstanding technical service to the program over several years at the National Education Conference.

- Recipients of these awards will be identified by regional/HQ management including the Regional Director, Laboratory Regional Director, Regional Quality Assurance Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator HQ Management.
  - Regional, ARS and Headquarters Management should send their one identified recipient to IR-4 HQ via email at [ir-4\\_project@ncsu.edu](mailto:ir-4_project@ncsu.edu) by close of business (PT) on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Please send the one selected recipient by copying and using [THIS TEMPLATE](#).
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## ***National Recognition of Excellence***

Deadline for Nomination: Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- The National Award of Excellence will be given to a field researcher, lab researcher, or quality assurance professional who goes above and beyond to keep operations moving.
- The award is given only during the National Education Conference which occurs every three years.
- Nominees must demonstrate outstanding achievements well beyond normal job performance, resulting in a significant positive impact on the IR-4 Project.
- Once a person has received this award, they cannot be nominated again.
- Nominations will come from the four regions, ARS and IR-4 Headquarters, and only one nomination will be submitted per region, ARS and headquarters.
- Nominees can be anyone associated with IR-4, except active members of the PMC.
- A maximum of three nominees will be selected to receive the award.
- Two letters of recommendation will need to be provided in the nomination application.
- The PMC, at their Summer or Fall 2025 meeting may elect to delegate the authority to the HQ Management Team to receive nominations and select the three national recipients of the award; otherwise, a special meeting will be held to review nominations and select recipients.
- Regional, ARS and Management should submit their nomination by completing [THIS FORM](#) (and uploading or emailing at least two letters of recommendation) by close of business (PT) on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.