

McCarry Leadership Award

Background: The McCarry Leadership Award facilitates the professional development of emerging leaders in the U.S. exchange community by supporting their participation in the Alliance Annual Conference. The award honors former Alliance Executive Director, Michael McCarry, for his 21 years of service to the Alliance and recognizes the power of exchange programs to improve lives.



Michael McCarry led the Alliance as its Executive Director from October 1994 until December 2015. Prior to joining the Alliance, he spent 18 years with the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) as a Foreign Service Officer. He served as U.S. Cultural Attaché in Beijing in the years immediately following the Tiananmen Square events of 1989. He led negotiations that resulted in the restoration of the Fulbright program after its suspension by the Chinese government. He also served as director of USIS Chiang Mai, Thailand, and as Assistant Cultural Attaché in Bangkok. Michael also had several Washington assignments, including ECA Staff Director and Chief of Advising and Student Services. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Michael worked as a legislative and press aide for Rep. Robert McClory (R-IL), and as a journalist in Illinois and Texas. He grew up in the Chicago area.

Awards: Each year the Alliance selects awardees for whom the registration fee for the Alliance Annual Conference will be waived. Up to \$1,000 reimbursement will also be provided for actual travel expenses associated with the Conference.

In addition to the Annual Conference, awardees meet with Michael and several Alliance members to engage in a small-group discussion. Awardees also receive free admission to Alliance Advocacy Day and an Alliance regional workshop the following year.

Eligibility: Candidates must be 35 or younger, have at least three years of experience in the exchange field, demonstrate significant leadership abilities/experience, and be employed by an Alliance member organization. Selected candidates should broadly reflect the diversity of the Alliance membership. While an organization may nominate multiple candidates, only one candidate per organization is eligible to receive this award.

Award Criteria: Candidates will be specifically evaluated on the following criteria:

Leadership

- Shows creativity, initiative and/or innovation in approach to solving problems
- Exhibits conviction, persistence, and/or determination in pursuit of goals
- Demonstrates an understanding of challenges in the field
- Delivers results by organizing, mobilizing, or inspiring others

Experience in and Commitment to the Exchanges Field

- Demonstrates significant contributions and deep experience in the field
- Is engaged in activities to promote the field of international exchange
- Displays purpose and direction in the exchange field
- Conveys an understanding of public policy
- Exhibits cross-cultural experience and understanding

Quality of Application

- Meets the leadership potential and commitment to the field expectation
- Provides thoughtful and detailed answers to questions
- Follows application instructions
- Uses appropriate grammar and style

Nominations: Candidates must be nominated by their employer, an Alliance member organization.

Selection Committee: Five committee members from organizations external to the Alliance will evaluate applications. Members will serve two-year terms, with an option of one renewal for a total of four years.

Timing: All application materials must be submitted to the Alliance no later than **July 31**. Applicants will be informed of decisions at least one month prior to the Annual Conference.

Application form: See McCarry Leadership Award section on the [Alliance Website](#). Please note that in addition to nominators submitting a form on behalf of a candidate (using the Nomination Form), candidates must also complete a separate Candidate Application. For a short list of application questions, see [here](#).