

McCarry Leadership Award

Background: As the international education and exchange field continues to evolve, championing emerging leaders in the field who reflect the rich diversity of the United States is essential for its continued advancement and success. The McCarry Leadership Award facilitates the professional development of emerging leaders in the U.S. exchange community by acknowledging their contributions to the field thus far and creating new opportunities for awardees to gain leadership experience and build relationships.



The award recognizes former Alliance Executive Director Michael McCarry's commitment to opening doors for young professionals in the field of international education and exchange. Throughout his career, Michael has advocated for emerging leaders, providing opportunities to develop critical skills, cultivate relationships, and advance in their careers. By identifying and celebrating individuals who demonstrate leadership potential and commitment to the field each year, the Alliance continues Michael's commitment to cultivating the next generation of international education and exchange leaders.

Awards: Each year the Alliance selects awardees who show promise in the international education and exchange field and the desire to be an active community leader. Awardees receive the following:

- Complimentary registration to the Alliance Annual Conference
- Up to \$1,000 reimbursement will also be provided for actual travel expenses associated with the Conference.
- Complementary admission to Advocacy Day the following year

Recipients of the award will be asked to commit to the following:

- One year of service on the Alliance's young professional steering committee
- Creation and implementation of Alliance event that promotes the mission and values of the organization

Eligibility: To be nominated, candidates must

- Have at least three years of experience in the international education and exchange field. This can include experience as an exchange participant and volunteer work in the field.
- Demonstrate significant leadership potential
- Be employed by an Alliance member organization
- Be 35 or younger

The Alliance encourages applications from young professionals of all races, religions, national origins, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. While an organization may nominate multiple candidates, only one candidate per organization is eligible to receive this award.

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

Leadership Skill and Potential

- Demonstrates strong skills and potential as an emerging leader in our field
- 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

Commitment and Contributions to the Exchanges Field

- Demonstrates significant commitment to the field and desire to contribute meaningfully to its advancement
- 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

- Exhibits leadership potential and commitment to the field through responses
- 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. Nominators should be the supervisor of the nominee and/or be familiar with the candidate's work, leadership potential, and commitment to the international education and exchange field.

Selection Committee: A group of thought leaders connected to the exchange community from organizations external to the Alliance will evaluate applications.

Timing: The deadline for applicants and nominators to submit their applications is **Friday, September 8**. Applicants will be informed of decisions at least one month prior to the Annual Conference.

Application form: See the 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](#).



More about Michael: 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.