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Date: Monday, July 15, 2020

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Re: **2020-2021 WAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards**

These awards recognize distinguished scholarly achievement at the master's level in the non-STEM areas (for Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Business) or the STEM areas (for the Biological Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering). Nominations will be accepted in any of the above-listed disciplines in which the institution offers a Master's degree.

The scholarly product eligible for this competition is a formal written thesis. If a nominating department offers both a thesis option and a project option, only the thesis is acceptable for consideration for this award. The 2020-2021 winner will receive \$1,000, a Certificate of Award, and travel expenses for the recipient to attend the WAGS Annual Conference and Awards luncheon to be held in Boise, Idaho in March 2021.

Guidelines

The nominee must have successfully defended and submitted the final copy of their thesis for the Master's degree within the period of **July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020**. Nomination materials must include:

1. A non-technical summary prepared by the nominee (1000-1500 words) describing the research and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialists.
2. An abstract of the nominee's research (not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages). Appendices containing nontextual material, such as charts or tables, may be included as additional pages. All pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the nominee.
3. Two nomination letters. One letter from the department head or major professor and one from an additional faculty member. The letters should include information regarding the significance of the thesis, the contribution of the thesis to the program of the degree granting unit, and the impact of the thesis on the knowledge base of the discipline.
4. The nominee's CV or resume (not to exceed five pages).

Selection will be based on four criteria: 1. originality of the study; 2. scope and significance of the study; 3. contribution to the discipline and/or profession and 4. overall quality of the summary and abstract of the thesis or dissertation. Finalists will be asked to provide an electronic copy of the complete thesis.

Nomination Procedure

Each eligible department may submit **one** nomination for the award to FGSR via GSMS by **Friday, August 21, 2020**. The FGSR will adjudicate all nominations received and forward one nomination to the WAGS National Office by the WAGS deadline of September 23, 2020. Successful nominees will be notified directly by WAGS.