In 2007, CASEL established the Joseph E. Zins Awards for Early Career Contributions to SEL Research and SEL Practice. The awards honor the memory and promote the work and lifelong professional passions of our beloved colleague Joe Zins, who died in 2006 at the age of 56.

Joe Zins cared deeply about growing the field of SEL and recognizing the importance of research to guide practice. Joe was devoted to high-quality SEL research. His work exemplified the blending of rigorous science and high-quality practice that CASEL has upheld as an abiding standard. Throughout his career, Joe collaborated with other senior researchers and at the same time he nurtured and encouraged the careers of younger researchers who would lead the next generation of SEL professionals. Because Joe was dedicated to both groups, CASEL presents two Joseph E. Zins Awards for SEL Action Research.

At the time of his death, Joseph E. Zins was a professor in the College of Education of the University of Cincinnati and director of the university’s doctoral program in special education. He was nationally and internationally respected for his expertise in the areas of social and emotional learning, prevention, and individual and organizational consultation. Among his 12 books are Building Academic Success on Social and Emotional Learning: What Does the Research Say? (2004); Bullying, Peer Harassment, and Victimization in the Schools (2003); and Promoting Social and Emotional Learning: Guidelines for Educators (1997).

One of CASEL’s strategic goals is to support and encourage leaders in high-quality social and emotional learning research. The CASEL Board of Directors established the Joseph E. Zins Award for Social and Emotional Learning Action Research. CASEL will present the Joseph E. Zins award annually in the fall at a CASEL event to two outstanding SEL action researchers in the following areas:

1. Early Career Contributions by an SEL Researcher at the Research Scientist, Assistant, or Associate Professor level

2. The Distinguished Scholar Award for Contributions by an SEL Researcher at the Senior Research Scientist or Full Professor level
THE AWARD CRITERIA
CASEL will honor two researchers who have advanced the field of social and emotional learning in schools and school districts in important and meaningful ways

EARLY CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS BY AN SEL RESEARCHER AWARD:
This award will be presented to a researcher who has made substantial contributions to the field of SEL in schools or school districts. Eligibility is limited to SEL researchers at the Research Scientist or Assistant or Associate Professor-level. These contributions could include applied research, theoretical contributions, or research on curriculum, policies, or practices. Previous research award winners:

  • Sara Rimm-Kaufman (2007)
  • Marc Brackett (2009)
  • Celene Domitrovich (2011)
  • Angela Lee Duckworth (2012)
  • Stephanie Jones (2013)
  • David Yeager (2015)
  • Camille A. Farrington, Anne Gregory (2018)

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS BY AN SEL RESEARCHER:
This award will be presented to a senior investigator (Senior Research Scientist or Full Professor) who has advanced the field of social and emotional learning in schools in important and meaningful ways, across the span of a distinguished career. These contributions could include applied research, theoretical contributions, or research on curriculum, policies, or practices. Previous award winners include:

  • Maurice Elias, Edward Zigler (2011)
  • J. David Hawkins (2012)
  • Joseph Durlak (2013)
  • Kimberly Schonert-Reichl (2015)
  • David Osher (2018)

SELECTION COMMITTEE
The selection committee for these awards includes Roger Weissberg (co-chair), Kimberly Schonert-Reichl (co-chair), Marc Brackett, and a small group of research collaborators who worked with Joe. The selection will be reviewed and endorsed by the CASEL Board of Directors, CASEL’s President and CEO, and CASEL Vice President for Research.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE
CASEL invites nominations for deserving candidates for each award by May 15, 2020.

Nominations should be sent to Cynthia Coleman ccoleman@casel.org and should include:

  • one-page nomination letter outlining the candidate’s suitability for the award and clear identification on which award the nomination is for (i.e., Early Career, Distinguished Scholar)
  • nominees’ CV
  • two scholarly publications representing the nominee’s SEL action research
  • two-page statement from the nominee outlining his/her contributions to the SEL field

Note that self-nominations can be submitted as well. Selection committee members will review submitted material and make selections by June 1, 2020. Award winners will receive a small cash award, a plaque, and recognition at a CASEL event. Winners will also be invited to write an essay to be shared with CASEL’s network.

Learn more at https://casel.org/awards/