

# IEEE Region 5 Stepping Stone Award

## Stepping Stone *on the path to* Milestone

### Description and Process

The IEEE Region 5 Stepping Stone Award in the IEEE Fields of Interest honors significant technical achievements in these fields. Stepping Stones recognize technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers, and patents. An achievement must have importance to the technologies associated with Region 5 in order to be proposed as a Stepping Stone—e.g. invented, initially demonstrated, first used, produced in Region 5.

Stepping Stones honor the achievement, rather than necessarily a place or a person. Stepping Stones may be proposed by any Region 5 IEEE member. A proposed Stepping Stone must be sponsored in the first five years (through 2020) by Region 5 itself through its executive committee and thereafter by Region 5 itself or by a Region 5 IEEE organizational unit (OU) such as a Region 5 IEEE section, society chapter, or student branch.

There have been numerous significant technical achievements within Region 5 deserving of a Region 5 Stepping Stone Award and such will most certainly be the case as the future unfolds. To make these awards with thoughtful attention to the historic value and the enduring importance of an achievement takes time for the crafting and executing of the needed and new review processes. For this reason, the annual number of Stepping Stone awards will be limited to nominally three in each of the first five years (through 2020).

### SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship has three aspects:

- 1) payment for the cost of the plaque(s);
- 2) arranging the award/presentation event; and
- 3) agreeing to monitor the plaque, informing the Region 5 History Chair if the plaque is in need of repair, needs to be moved, is no longer secure, etc.

With respect to Aspect 1, the nominal cost of an installed bronze plaque is \$1000. The cost of the original is ordinarily the responsibility of the sponsoring OU or Region 5 itself, but the recipient enterprise or institution may offer to cover part or all of this cost. However, the cost of additional plaques for installation at secondary sites is at the request of and consequently is the responsibility of the recipient enterprise or institution.

With respect to Aspect 2, the award/presentation of the primary site plaque should be arranged by the sponsoring OU or Region 5 itself together with the primary site enterprise or institution.

Aspect 3 must be done by the IEEE Section in which a plaque is located. Aspects 1 and 2 can be done by any Region 5 IEEE OU or Region 5 itself and need not be the same for both aspects.

## **APPLICATION FORM**

To begin the process, the sponsoring Region 5 OU or Region 5 itself must complete the attached form. Information for completing the form needs to be confirmed by the enterprise or organization intended to receive the recognition. When the form is completed, it should then be sent to the Region 5 History Chair, who will review the form for completeness. If found to be complete, the form and the recommendation of the Region 5 History Chair will be submitted to the Region 5 ExCom for consideration and approval. The History Chair shall serve as a resource person during that consideration.

## **APPROVAL PROCESS AND PRESENTATION**

After recommendation by the Region 5 History Chair and approval by the Region 5 Executive Committee, a plaque commemorating the achievement will be prepared and placed at the agreed location with an accompanying award/presentation event, such as a reception or a luncheon. The plaque will be bronze or other durable metal including (1) a logo identifying Region 5 and the award and (2) an award citation of nominally not more than 60 words or 300 characters. Responsibility for securing the plaque rests with the Region 5 History Chair.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The criterion for selection of an achievement as a Stepping Stone will be that it is widely acclaimed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) literature and/or the popular media as trend setting, paradigm changing, or comparable expressions of excellence. Designation of the achievement as a Region 5 Stepping Stone should rightly be seen as a precursor to likely future nomination and recognition as an IEEE Milestone.

## **ONGOING OU RESPONSIBILITY**

The proposer(s) and officers of the sponsoring entity—Region 5 itself or OU thereof—of an IEEE Region 5 Stepping Stone will carry forward a responsibility to monitor the continuing impact of the Stepping Stone and the level of promise it suggests with respect to future nomination as an IEEE Milestone. This information must be regularly reported to and archived by the Region 5 History Chair.

## **REGION 5 HISTORY CHAIR RESPONSIBILITY**

The IEEE Region 5 History Chair shall maintain all documentation associated with each Stepping Stone and report any supplemental information to the IEEE Region 5 section chair where each achievement took place and, if appropriate, the chairperson of each IEEE Region 5 society chapter within whose technical field the achievement took place. The History Chair shall also notify the sponsoring entity of any achievement having reached the elapsed time required (namely, 25 years) for its proposal as an IEEE Milestone and offer assistance in working with the sponsoring entity in making a nomination when such is deemed appropriate. The History Chair also has responsibility for posting Region 5 awards to the Region 5 pages on the Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW).

## **TRANSITION TO A MILESTONE**

Early recognition of technological innovation and excellence (for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers, and patents) as an IEEE Region 5 Stepping Stone to future nomination as an IEEE Milestone requires consideration of the body of information that must be assembled for becoming an IEEE Milestone. With due consideration of this body of information the Region 5 History Chair will craft, and update as needed, a form on which to provide the information needed for consideration and endorsement by the Region 5 ExCom of a proposed Region 5 Stepping Stone.