July 25, 2004

To: Kathleen Ferraro, SSSP President
        Thomas Hood, SSSP Executive Officer
        Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

From: Jolan Hsieh, SSSP, Lee Founders Award Committee Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

The Lee Founders Award Committee concluded the review process and reached the final
decision that the year 2004 award goes to Dr. Mary Romero.

Two nominations were received by April 30, 2004. The committee chairperson mailed
out evaluation packets to the 2004 committee members, Marjorie DeVault (Chair-Elect),
John Cross, Jean Elson, Robin Haarr, Glyn Hughes, Raymond Michalowski, Jacqueline
T. Orr, and Shelley Kara Sendak, and received all votes in mid-June, for a total of 9
ballots, including the Chair's. After reviewing comments and votes, the committee
reached agreement that the award should go to Dr. Mary Romero.

The committee members are impressed with the way Dr. Romero has combined research
with activism and advocacy, both outside and within the academy. She involves herself in
different communities, and consistently brings a transformative approach to her work.
That is, as a researcher, university teacher, member of the sociological community, and
citizen, Romero seems relentless in identifying issues and structures that need to be
challenged in the interest of social justice. This is true across the breadth of her scholarly
interests. She "actively searches out new colleagues" (as her nominating letter stated),
and her commitment to challenging the academy is based on the insights of her research
on Latina/o marginalization. Romero is a strong teacher, and she has numerous awards to
verify that. She has been active in professional activities and associations, and as a
mentor for younger scholar-activists. In the creative balance she has achieved between
scholarship and social justice activities, she has been an inspiring figure for many others.
Along with her long-time service to SSSP, these activities make Professor Romero a very
worthy recipient of the Founders award.