
FROM THE DESK OF CELESTE WATKINS

TO: SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: 2004-2005 LEE SCHOLAR-ACTIVIST AWARD COMMITTEE; CHAIR: CELESTE WATKINS;
MEMBERS: MARK PEYROT, SUSAN CARINGELLA-MACDONALD
SUBJECT: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
DATE: 8/23/2005
CC:

The committee received 8 applications, with 6 meeting the award requirements of membership in SSSP and an accepted paper for the upcoming conference. The 6 applications that were considered by the committee requested a total of \$8,631.64. There were two applications from Mexico and one application each from Ethiopia, Panama, India, and New Zealand.

<u>Applicant & University</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Amount requested</u>
Acosta, Irma Universidad Autonoma de Zacatecas	Mexico	\$988
Figueroa, Victor Universidad Autonoma de Zacatecas	Mexico	\$988
Getaneh, Zelalem Gebreegziabher Local NGO - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Ethiopia	\$1452
Jordan, Victor Universidad de Panamá	Panama	\$973
Lima, Ieti Victoria University	New Zealand	\$2230.64
Subuddhi, Karunamay Indian Institute of Technology	India	\$2000

Each committee member reviewed the applications and assigned a ranking using the criteria established by SSSP. The top three names on the list below received the strongest support. The committee felt that Acosta represented a strong substantive fit with the conference, gave clear and specific information on the application, and should be awarded in part because she was denied funding last year due to her 2003 award. A native of the state of Zacatecas, Acosta has worked for years in favor of social justice, most recently on behalf of the peasant producers of the region. At the Philadelphia meetings, she will present a paper on a panel focusing on neo-liberalism in Latin America where she will offer an analysis concerning the cumulative effects of neo-liberal policies upon the wellbeing of agricultural workers. Figueroa's application was also seen as strong and the desire was there to fund this year as we hadn't funded him last year for the same reason as Acosta. Active in the struggle for the return to democracy in Chile, in 1999 he published a book which reflected upon the Chilean experience over the first two decades after the Allende Popular Unity

government. He is currently serving as the Chair of the Doctoral Program in Political Science at the Universidad Autonoma de Zacatecas, a program which emphasizes critical studies in the field of politics and development. Getaneh's proposal shows a true scholar-activist history and represents the activist/practitioner perspective that will be great to have at the meetings. He is a sociologist and managing director of a local NGO in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that does development work.

In order to fund as many applicants as possible, we funded the top three applicants at high but not total percentages of what they requested. With the remaining funds, we proposed that the last three listed applicants below each receive \$300 to attend. Jordan receiving full funding last year was a primary reason why his funding allocation is what it is this year. He is also a senior academic, so we suspect that other funding sources are possible. For Subuddhi, while the allocation is less than what he requested, he will assist with travel costs and represent a received grant. On July 13, we received notification that Lima could not attend the meeting due to problems with his travel grant application. His award was divided equally and sent to Jordan and Subuddhi.

The final allocation of the 2004-2005 Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund is as follows:

Acosta: \$900
Figueroa: \$900
Getaneh: \$1300
Jordan: \$300 (received an additional \$150, total \$450)
Lima: \$0
Subuddhi: \$300 (received an additional \$150, total \$450)
Total : \$4000

Overall, the applications were strong but the committee felt that it was a bit difficult to discern who should receive the awards based on the information provided. The application itself calls for a small amount of information and while this is very helpful for efficiency's sake, a few words on how the applicant sees him/herself as not only a scholar but also an activist might be a useful line to include in the application.

The Committee Chair would like to thank Mark Peyrot and Susan Caringella-Macdonald for their diligent work and collaboration on this committee. Lastly, we thank Michele Koontz for her excellent assistance and guidance in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Watkins, Chair