

## **REPORT OF THE 2024-25 LEE FOUNDERS AWARD COMMITTEE**

The SSSP 2024-25 Lee Founders Award Committee Members included Anna Maria Santiago, Michigan State University (Chair); Frank Ridzi, LeMoyne College and Central New York Community Foundation (Chair-Elect); Corey Dolgon, Stonehill College; Marlese Durr, Wright State University; Marilyn Fernandez, Santa Clara University; Stephen Pfohl, Boston College; Mary Romero, Arizona State University.

This year, the April 15<sup>th</sup> submission deadline was extended twice – until April 30<sup>th</sup> and then May 9<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, this was the first nomination cycle under the recently adopted criteria limiting awards to one primary recipient and one honorable mention (if desired) for SSSP awards.

The Committee considered the candidacy of three distinguished nominees: Sandra Barnes (Brown University); Luis A. Fernandez (Northern Arizona University); and Shirley A. Jackson (University of Connecticut).

The Committee met virtually on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the nomination dossiers of each candidate. During that meeting, the initial vote was to declare two co-recipients of the award. After consultation with the SSSP Administrative Office, the Committee was reminded of the aforementioned criteria limiting the award to one primary recipient. An email ballot was distributed to all Committee members and the Committee selected Professor Luis A. Fernandez as the recipient of the 2024-25 Lee Founders Award with a 5-2 vote.

Committee members were impressed by Professor Fernandez's career-long commitment to justice-orientated research, teaching, service and praxis on a variety of social problems associated with the criminal justice system. Reviewers underscored the use of participatory program planning and evidence-based engagement and activism as the common thread interwoven in his work to effect positive social change. They also noted the broad reach of his work from local to global levels.

The SSSP Lee Founders Award Committee would like to congratulate Professor Fernandez for his outstanding accomplishments and sustained work for the advancement of social justice in the humanist tradition of Alfred McClung Lee and Elizabeth Briant Lee.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

The SSSP Lee Founders Award Committee would also like to propose several action items related to the procedures:

1. Convene the Committee during the fall to solicit and encourage nominations. Potential nominees will receive notification of their nomination and informed of the deadline for submission of their nomination dossiers.
2. Move the submission deadline for nomination dossiers to February 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Review nomination dossiers and select recipient by April 1<sup>st</sup>.