



Happy October!

## From the Desk of the President

President's Blog

October 2015

As I write this, the Emmys were televised less than two weeks ago. I didn't have an opportunity to watch the ceremony but the event inspired this month's blog.

The NCD hands out its own "Emmys" each year at the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Our awards include: Most Active Chapters (Large and Small), Most Active Student Subunit, the Best Communications Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Fisheries Excellence Award. Through these awards, the Division recognizes the amazing accomplishments of our members, subunits, and chapters. Chairing the awards committee is truly one of the most rewarding parts of my NCD leadership because it shines a light on the sustained efforts of our volunteers who help make AFS so great!

But we're often plagued by a low number of applications for all of our awards. In fact, there are some awards that frequently have no applicants. Last year, for example, there were no applicants for the Fisheries Excellence Award. Certainly this is not to say that past winners were not deserving. But seeing more applications would make my heart soar!

So, why don't we receive more applications annually? Is it a lack of communications on the deadlines? Is it a perception that the time required to apply is less than equal to the chance of success? Are we humble Midwesterners who don't pat ourselves on the back? Share your thoughts and ideas or suggestions of how we may improve the number of applications for our next go-round by e-mailing me at [melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu](mailto:melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu).

Remember, the 2015 applications for the NCD awards are due **November 15!** See <http://ncd.fisheries.org/awards> for details on how to apply and e-mail me with your questions and completed packets. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the NCD Awards Committee, feel free to contact me as well.

Let's break the record for the number of submissions in all of our award categories in 2015!