

# **CLARENCE W. SORENSEN DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD**

## **Purpose**

The Clarence W. Sorensen Distinguished Dissertation Award is designed to promote recognition of doctoral dissertations of the highest quality. Dr. Clarence W. Sorensen was the first Dean of the Graduate School and was responsible for developing the first doctoral program at Illinois State University. In 1960 Dean C. W. Sorensen recommended to President Robert Bone that Illinois State University begin offering terminal degrees. The Clarence W. Sorensen Distinguished Dissertation Award recognizes excellence in graduate education at Illinois State University. An Illinois State University graduate student with the outstanding dissertation from a doctoral program will be honored each spring semester in the memory of Dean C. W. Sorensen.

## **Eligibility**

The competition is open to all students who have completed a doctoral program at ISU and graduated December 2008, May 2009, or August 2009. Students who have completed a dissertation but will graduate in a later semester will be eligible for the competition following their graduation. The student does not have to be on campus to be eligible for the competition.

## **Dissertation Submission**

Each department or school that has graduated one or more doctoral students in the defined time period may submit one outstanding doctoral dissertation to the Graduate School by Friday, October 23, 2009. Two clean copies of the dissertation should be submitted, accompanied by two supporting letters highlighting the dissertation's strengths and a brief rationale of why this dissertation should be considered for the Clarence W. Sorensen Distinguished Dissertation Award. The two supporting letters should include information on the dissertation's level of scholarship, significance of the work, scope of the work, and contribution (potential and/or realized) to the field.

## **Judging**

The Dissertation Award Judging Committee, comprised of Doctoral Coordinators from each of the doctoral programs, will review all the dissertations submitted by the departments and will select the winning dissertation.

## **Award Ceremonies**

The winner will be recognized at an award ceremony. The Clarence W. Sorensen Distinguished Dissertation Award is scheduled to be awarded on April 14, 2010.

## **Activity Timeline**

Announcement sent to departments	By October 2, 2009
Department announcements of competition	By October 9, 2009
Deadline for departments to submit a dissertation to the Graduate School (two copies are required, along with supporting letters)	October 23, 2009
Reading by judging committee completed	By January 15, 2010
Announcement of winner by Graduate School	By January 29, 2010
Award Ceremony	April 14, 2010