The NCRA will participate in the ESS (Experiment Station Section) Leadership Award process and recognize outstanding North Central Region leadership following the recognized annual national guidelines posted on the ESCOP website (http://escop.info/about/). NCRA is in the enviable position of reflecting on the contributions and accomplishments of many current and former leaders as potential candidates. NCRA has formalized the nomination and review with a more consistent and transparent approach to improve the process and ensure the highest caliber of awardees.

Nominations and self-nominations are encouraged. All nominations will be solicited from the NCRA Office in the fall and several times thereafter with designated deadlines. The Office will review the nominations for compliance and completeness with the published ESS Guidelines. In addition, the NCRA Office will solicit from all NCRA directors and allied leaders who are approaching retirement or have retired by capturing their contributions applicable to the Leadership Award for future NCRA consideration. All nominations must address the published Nominations Criteria in the annual ESS call such as: 1) SAES administrative leaders of varying titles, 2) contributions to the LGUs via active participation in regional associations and/or ESS, regional/national/international assignments advancing ESS or LGUs, 3) systemic efforts to advance DEI, and 4) record of accomplishments in up to two pages total. Any materials that have been previously submitted can and should be updated for each annual selection process. The final materials will be prepared for Committee review and selection prior to the spring meeting. The selection Committee will be comprised of the NCRA Chair, Incoming Chair, Past Chair (in practice, the Executive Committee) and a past award recipient. The Committee will be assisted by the NCRA Executive Director and Assistant Director.

If it is determined by the NCRA Office that a conflict of interest exists, at-large director(s) will be solicited for participation. The Incoming Chair will serve as chair of the Committee and make the recommendation(s) to the selection Committee. The Committee recommendation will be forwarded to the NCRA directors for final approval at the Spring meeting. This award will be presented as deserving nominees are made known to and accepted by the Committee and will not necessarily be presented every year.

Normally, one award may be presented annually during the spring NCRA meeting. However, under extraordinary circumstances as defined by Committee, and pursuant to the meritorious achievements of the nominees, as many as three awards may be issued in any given year. Only one national award may be awarded in a given year.