



VISIONARY LEADER AWARD

2023 Nomination Announcement

About the Award: The Visionary Leader Award (VLA) is presented by PARC's Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) to recognize an individual who exemplifies extraordinary leadership, vision, and commitment to PARC in a manner that has elevated PARC to new heights. Award recipients will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and an engraved, commemorative plaque. Please visit <https://parcplace.org/about/parc-awards/parc-visionary-leader-award/> to learn more about the award and past recipients.

Eligibility:

At this time, only U.S. citizens are eligible for receiving the cash award associated with the Visionary Leader Award. Current JNSC members (Table 1.) are not eligible to receive the Visionary Leader Award.

Award Criteria:

Nominations for the VLA will be made **by the JNSC members, in collaboration with regional, federal, state, and other member partners.** The award shall be presented no more than once per year (though not necessarily each year) based on the merit of candidates nominated. Please work with your Regional JNSC representatives (see Table 1 below) if you would like to be a part of a nomination. Nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Has made distinguished, sustained contributions (i.e., multi-year, valuable, repeated contributions/efforts) that carried PARC to new heights.
2. Has demonstrated **extraordinary** leadership, vision and commitment to PARC in a manner that is inspiring to their peers while forwarding the PARC mission. This award targets individuals who go **above and beyond.**

PARC is committed to our **Core Value of Inclusivity and Collaboration** including a strategic goal of enhancing inclusion and equity within the herpetofaunal conservation community. PARC strives to provide inclusive spaces and a diverse network for participating in herpetofaunal conservation. Further, PARC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Team works to bring equity and inclusion to all aspects of PARC. In addition to meeting one of more of the two criteria listed above, the Nomination must also include:

3. A statement regarding the Nominee's perspective, experience, or contributions to increase diversity and advance inclusion of under-represented groups of people in herpetofaunal conservation.

Nominations should be for individuals whose efforts at the **REGIONAL** or **NATIONAL** level broadly contributed to or benefited PARC in terms of accomplishment(s) and leadership provided and resulting impacts of the work, regardless of age or professional experience of the nominee.

Nominees must observe and uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity and professional behavior, and must uphold [PARC's Code of Ethics and Meeting Code of Conduct](#):

Nominee:

Name:
Mailing Address:
PARC Area(s) of Contribution (Region(s) or National):
Phone:
Email:

Nominated by:

Name:
Address:
PARC Region:
Phone:
Email:

Nomination:

Please adhere to the word and page limits (6 Total), or the nomination will not be considered.

1. **In 200 words or less**, please describe and provide examples of:
 - a. The distinguished, sustained contributions (i.e., multi-year, valuable, repeated contributions/efforts) that carried PARC to new heights,

AND / OR

- b. How the nominee has displayed extraordinary leadership, vision and commitment to PARC in a manner that is inspiring to their peers while advancing the PARC mission.

2. **In 2 pages or less**, please provide brief biographical information that documents long-term efforts, accomplishment(s), leadership provided, and examples of the resulting impacts of the work initiated by the nominee.

3. **In 200 words or less**, describe the nominee's perspective, experience, or contributions to increase diversity and advance inclusion of under-represented groups of people in herpetofaunal conservation.

4. [OPTIONAL] **Using no more than 6 pages total**, you may provide a letter or letters of support. This page limit is inclusive of signatures (i.e., you cannot submit a 6-page nomination with 2 pages of signatures for 8 pages total). Required format: 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Please note that nominees are evaluated on the merit of the nomination, not on the number of letters of support or the number of supporting signatures per each letter.

Submission:

Please send the completed nomination package to parc_coordinators@parcplace.org

Deadline for submission: December 14, 2022

Nominations received after this date and incomplete forms will not be considered. The award winner will be notified by late-January 2023.

Selection Process:

PARC JNSC members (Table 1.) will review nominations, evaluate carefully against the criteria, and vote anonymously to determine the selection.

Table 1. Current voting members on PARC’s Joint National Steering Committee.

JNSC MEMBER	PARC ROLE	TITLE AND AFFILIATION
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
Becca Cozad	JNSC Senior Co-chair	Research Biologist, Nokuse Plantation
Daren Riedle	JNSC Junior Co-chair	Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
Brian Zarate	JNSC Co-chair Ex-Officio	Senior Zoologist, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program
Chris Petersen	JNSC Co-Chair Ex-Officio	Senior Natural Resource Specialist-U.S. Navy/DoD PARC National Representative
Mark Mandica	DEITT Representative	Executive Director, The Amphibian Foundation

Michelle Christman	National Federal Agencies Coordinator	Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kerry Wixted	National State Agencies Coordinator	Program Manager, Amphibian, Reptile, and Invasive Species, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
<u>Midwest PARC</u>		
Melissa Youngquist	Senior Co-chair	Research Biologist, Shedd Aquarium
Travis Kurtz	Junior Co-chair	Zookeeper, John Ball Zoo
<u>Northeast PARC</u>		
Jess Meck	Senior Co-chair	Project Manager, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
Luke Groff	Junior Co-chair	Herpetologist, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
<u>Northwest PARC</u>		
Laura Sprague	Senior Co-chair	Fish Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Christine Parker-Graham	Junior Co-chair	Veterinarian at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<u>Southeast PARC</u>		
Robert Hill	Senior Co-chair	Associate Curator of Herpetology, Zoo Atlanta
Keri Lejeune	Junior Co-chair	Herpetologist, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
<u>Southwest PARC</u>		
Cristina Jones	Senior Co-chair	Biologist, Project Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Joe Ehrenberger	Junior Co-chair	Ecologist, Adaptation Environmental Services

DoD PARC

Dave McNaughton	DoD PARC Representative	Natural Resources Specialist, US Navy
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At-large Members

Vacant	Industry Representative
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Vacant	NGO Representative
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Shelly Grow	Zoos and Aquariums Representative	Vice President, Conservation and Science, Association of Zoos & Aquariums
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Federal Agencies Steering Committee

Jenny Schultz	Federal Agencies Steering Committee Senior Co-chair	Fishery Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources
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Brad Jost	Federal Agencies Steering Committee Junior Co-chair	Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management
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AFWA Amphibian and Reptile Committee

David Golden	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee Chair	Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
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Thomas Eason, PhD	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee Vice Chair	Assistant Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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