

Call for Nominations: Early Career Award

Sponsored by the Central States Section of The Combustion Institute (CSSCI)

The CSSCI is pleased to seek nominations for the 2026 Early Career Award recognizing the contributions to the field of combustion. The award will be presented at the 2026 Spring Technical Meeting, during which the recipient will present the Early Career Investigator Plenary Lecture, for which an honorarium of \$1000 will be awarded. The registration fees for the Spring Technical Meeting will be waived for the awardee, and the awardee will be presented with a plaque recognizing the award. The nomination process, eligibility, selection criteria, and deadline for the award are below.

- 1) **Eligibility:** Nominees should be within the first ten years of their research careers following the award of their highest academic degree and be members of the CSSCI. All limits are at the deadline for nominations. Nominators may reach out to the Early Career Award Evaluation Committee if questions exist regarding the eligibility of a nominee. Self-nominations are not permitted. Nominators may discuss the nomination with nominees. The nominee must be available in person to present a plenary talk at the 2026 CSSCI Spring Technical Meeting.
- 2) **Nomination package:** The nomination package should consist of the items below. The letters and CV should be assembled into a single PDF file by the nominator and emailed to CSSCI at the address specified below. Nomination packages must be received by the stated deadline. Late packages will be rejected without review. Only the first two pages of the letter of nomination and the first two pages of the letter of support will be considered by the committee. The font used should be no smaller than 11 pt using Calibri or Times New Roman. Letters should be written on institutional letterhead and must be signed.
 - a. A letter of nomination (maximum two pages) detailing specific contributions to the field of combustion. Examples include, but are not limited to: impact, publications, patents (or other equivalent products), invited talks, collaborations, and service. The nomination letter should make it clear that the nominee meets the 10-year eligibility criterion and indicate how long the nominee has been an independent researcher. If an exception to the 10-year rule is requested, it should clearly state how the nomination falls within the spirit of the early career award guidelines.
 - b. A letter of support (maximum two pages) from a person capable of assessing the contributions of the nominee to combustion science with particular emphasis on their career stage. It should also address the nominee's potential for future success in their career. The letter may contain some similar information to the 'letter of nomination' but should focus on the nominee's research, and current and future impact of the research.
 - c. Nominee CV including evidence of adherence to the "within the first 10 years of a research career" eligibility criterion, or any supporting evidence for an exception to the 10-year rule.
- 3) **Evaluation and selection:** The nominations will be evaluated by a selection committee appointed by the Board of Advisors of the CSSCI.
- 4) **Nomination deadline:** August 29, 2025.
- 5) Send award nominations and questions to earlycareer@cssci.org.