



IUSSI - North American Section

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
Turner-Collins Award
Due October 1, 2026**

Purpose: To encourage and recognize efforts to promote interest in biology among African Americans and Native Americans using social insects and related material

Nature: The program is inspired by the work and advocacy of two African American researchers. Charles H. Turner (1867-1923) was a noted student of social wasps, ants, and bees. Margaret Collins (1922-1996) was a taxonomist and natural historian of termites. Both were dedicated to promoting the well-being and education of their fellow Black Americans. This award encourages scientists, students, and community members associated with the IUSSI-NAS to use their special interests for humanitarian ends: improvement of public access to knowledge, especially among children, young people, and concerned parents in these historically excluded groups. The award shall consist of a commemorative plaque of recognition. The awardees will be announced by **November 1, 2026**.

Eligibility: The award will be given to individuals at any career stage who have engaged in, or are currently engaged in, one or more impactful activities designed to increase Black and/or Native American representation in the field of Social Insect Science. These outreach activities should generally take place somewhere in North America (including Canada, the USA, and Mexico), though projects within the spirit of the award, but taking place in whole or in part outside of North America, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Non-IUSSI members and citizens of any country are eligible. People may be nominated posthumously, but at least some of the recognized outreach activities should have been performed in the past 10 years.

Nominations: Self nominations and nominations of others are both encouraged. Each nomination packet should consist of a single PDF containing the following sections:

- (1) Cover page – includes the following information about the nominee:
 - a. Name of nominee
 - b. Affiliation of nominee (e.g. institution and department)
 - c. Most recent position (e.g. undergraduate student, graduate student, postdoc, associate professor, K-12 teacher)
 - d. Mailing address (where we will mail the award)
 - e. Email address

(2) One-page description of Turner-Collins related project (or projects) that explicitly specifies:

- a. Inclusion of African-American and/or Native-American participants
- b. Magnitude of positive impact (discuss the number of people affected and the type of positive impact)
- c. Duration of project (whether this was a one-time event or a long-term initiative)
- d. Level of specificity (to what extent is/was this project a successful effort to increase representation in these historically underrepresented populations?)
- e. Mention if there was any collaboration with established organizations or individuals working towards DEIJ objectives (optional). For example: working with on-campus black student organizations, etc. The nominee must appreciably add value beyond what that organization was already doing without them.

(3) A letter of support from one or more person(s) familiar with the project. This could be a student, a participant, an advisor, or other community member (non-confidential, to be included in the compiled PDF). This letter should:

- a. Verify that the nominated project(s) occurred in the manner described in the project description (item 2).
- b. Address how the project(s) meet(s) the above eligibility criteria of the Turner-Collins award

(4) An up-to-date CV or resumé of the applicant/nominee.

Additional documents, such as photographs or media reports of the project, may be attached to the application but are not required.

Email compiled PDF document to iussi.nas.deij@gmail.com by **October 1, 2026**.