



2020 OUTSTANDING SECTION / BRANCH AWARD NOMINATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

- An event/activity may only be used once and cannot be repeated throughout the application. Please select the most appropriate category. There are potential negative points for an event/activity that is repeated.
- Sections should NOT include activities completed by their Branches and Branches should NOT include activities completed by their Section.
- Applications are limited to 12 pages plus a copy of one newsletter.
- Point totals are listed under each category for a maximum of 115 points.
- Only list activities from October 1 – September 30
- Please e-mail an electronic PDF file to Nancy Berson at ASCE: nberson@asce.org by **October 30, 2020**.

BASIC INFORMATION

Award Classification (check one):	Very Large Section/Branch (> 2500 members) Large Section/Branch (1001-2500 members) Medium Section/Branch (501-1000 members) Small Section/Branch (< 500 members)
Section/Branch Nominee:	Puerto Rico Section
Name and Board Position of Contact Member:	Hector Colon De La Cruz, President. Gabriela Yañez, Board Attendee
ASCE Member ID:	10850481,10932567
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NOMINATION QUESTIONS/SCORING

115 points maximum

A. COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS (15 Points Maximum)

- **Newsletter** (1 point per issue, 5 points maximum):
Please include one electronic newsletter with the Award nomination package or include a link to an active website. Points will be given for the number of newsletters published on the website.

Number of Newsletters Published Annually:	3
Newsletter URL:	http://sections.asce.org/puerto-rico/newsletter http://sections.asce.org/puerto-rico/ In the webpage you should find the newsletter, we are in the process of uploading the third newsletter.

- **Website** (5 points maximum):
Verify that all links are active prior to submission.

Website URL:	www.ascepuertorico.org
Discuss the content included on your website:	General information of ASCE, ASCE PR Section Board, Contacts, Awards to be presented, collaboration agreements, newsletters, links to different student chapters, links to other professional organizations, government affairs summary, other engineering/ infrastructure supporting documents

- **Social Media Tools** (5 points maximum):
Verify that all links are active prior to submission.

Discuss Social Media platforms used to communicate to your Section/Branch.	none
Social Media URL:	

B. PROFESSIONAL / LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, AWARDS / RECOGNITION, SCHOLARSHIPS AND MENTORING (20 Points Maximum)

- Professional / Leadership (Non-Technical) Activities (5 points maximum):

Professional / Leadership (Non-Technical) Committee Meetings (1 point each, 2 points max)

Professional Committee:	Number of Meetings:	Presentation Topic(s):
Board Meetings	6	The PR Section Board physically gathered at least once a month after being installed by R5 governors. The board met at least 6 times in the year 2019.

Professional / Leadership (Non-Technical) Seminars (1 point each, 3 points max) (**Only 1**)

Date:	Approx. Attendees:	Presentation Topics / Describe Seminar:
December 22 2019	25	Last December the board met with section members to discuss report card efforts and leadership roles

- Awards/Recognition (1 point each, 5 points maximum):

Awards Given by the Section/Branch (**6 in total**)

Name of Award:	Recipient:	Describe:
Section Younger Member of the Year	Hector J. Colón	Hector received the award for her performance as YM of the year due to his government affairs and section energizing efforts.
Section Student Member of the Year	Gabriela Yáñez	Gabriela received the award for her performance as ASCE-UPRM student chapter president.
Section Professional Engineer of the Year	Edwin Vargas	Edwin Vargas received the award for his government affairs, ASCE PR leadership, and mentoring performance.
Wall of Fame Engineer	Benjamín Colucci	Benjamín received the Wall of Fame recognition due to his lifelong investment in civil engineering and ASCE
Fellowship Status	Benjamin Colucci Rios	Benjamin was recognized as a Fellow member.

Society Awards Received by the Section / Branch or its members

Name of Award:	Recipient:	Describe:
Region 5 Civil Engineer Student of the Year	Gabriela Yáñez González	Gabriela received the award for her outstanding involvement in ASCE throughout her college years.

- Scholarships (5 points maximum):

Scholarships to High School Students (1 point each)

Name of Scholarship:	Amount of Scholarship:		Describe:
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Scholarships to College Students (1 point each) (5 in total)

Name of Scholarship:	Amount of Scholarship:	Describe:
ASCE Convention	\$255	3 students were awarded a pass to ASCE's VTechnical Conference and ASCE Convention
MRLC - Leadership and Networking	\$500	2 students were funded to travel and attend the ASCE MRLC

- Mentoring Activities of ASCE Members (5 points maximum):

Date:	Approx. Attendees:	Describe:
ASCE MRLC	2	2 students were funded to assist to the MRLC with the President and received leadership mentorship
Sept-Jan	1	The student was selected to participate and be mentored by professionals from the Infrastructure Commission and PR Board
Jun-Aug	1	PhD student was mentored by the Infrastructure-Transportation Commission
Jul-Sept	1	Bachelors student received mentorship and participation in the Infrastructure-Transportation Commission
Jul-Oct	2	Students were selected to participate and be mentored by professionals when helping with government affairs activities

C. TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES (15 Points Maximum)

Section/Branch Technical Committees or Institutes (minimum of 2 technical or virtual meetings per year; 1 point each, 5 points max)

Technical Committee:	Number of Meetings:	Presentation Topic(s):
Solid Waste Infrastructure Commission	2	The commission met to discuss PR's landfill issues, evaluate an EPA's white paper and recommendations
Road Transportation Commission	4	Puerto Rico's conditions and solutions to the road transportation problems
Infrastructure/Dams/Water	4	Dams Commission met to discuss innovative ways to solve Puerto Rico's non-revenue water problem. A technical white paper was produced and should be published soon in the website

Section/Branch Technical Seminars / Courses with PDHs (1 point each, 5 points max)

Date:	Approx. Attendees:	Describe:
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Other Technical / Educational Activities and Benefits for Section / Branch Members (1 point each, 5 points max)

Describe other technical / educational activities and benefits for Section / Branch members:	-The Government Affairs Committee and the Infrastructure Committee hosted 2 monthly meeting since August 2020 until October to Puerto Rico's Infrastructure review of the report card and the actual conditions and funds allocated. Total Meetings: 10+
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D. MEMBERSHIP (10 Points Maximum)

Describe efforts to transition Student Members to Associate Members (2 points):	Working with the universities to promote the transition from students to younger members. Involve students in the e-board activities to spark interest and have continuity in the efforts of the section.
Describe Member recruitment programs (2 points):	Recruitment program started with recruiting professionals for the report card. The infrastructure committee consists in almost 30 members.
Describe Member retention programs (2 points):	Promoting activities, emailing members with outdated memberships
Describe any recognition programs for employers supporting ASCE (2 points):	They are mentioned in our website under the sponsor section
Describe other Membership Activities / Events (2 points):	General assembly's luncheon with the members of the section

E. PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (10 Points Maximum)

Describe outreach activities with elementary, middle, or high schools	-
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Describe outreach activities via media outlets (1 point each, 3 points max):	<p><i>Jugando Pelota Dura TV interview to create awareness of the infrastructure problems on the island. (https://fb.watch/1sCV8af-EG/)</i></p> <p><i>Radio Isla Interview to answer questions of the IRC (https://fb.watch/1sD7Mu7vGW/)</i></p> <p><i>El Nuevo Día Newspaper with report card related information https://rotativo.com.mx</i></p>
Describe other public outreach or educational activities (1 point each, 2 points max):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting with students of Cornell University to discuss results of the PR Infrastructure Report Card. 2. Meeting with Association of United Nations-USA Chapter to develop el strategy for achieving locally the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

F. COLLEGE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (10 Points Maximum) – CHOOSE 1 or 2

1. Section/Branch has an ASCE College Student Chapter(s)

Describe Student Interaction Activities between ASCE Student Chapters and the Section/Branch (1 point each, 5 points max):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASCE-UPRM Student chapter invited the Section to a thanksgiving dinner in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the ASCE-UPRM student chapter. 2. The branch invited students to participate and shadow engineers inspecting houses affected by earthquakes. 3. Leadership meeting with Director of UPRM School of Civil Engineering and Advisors 4. Section Officers joined the UPRM Chapter Leadership transition meeting 5. Officers from the student chapter joined PR Section meeting in 2020 to discuss outreach and government affairs ideas
Note current Section/Branch Practitioner Advisors (5 points):	Max Laracuente

2. Section/Branch does not have any ASCE College Student Chapter(s)

Describe outreach activities with college students other than those involved with ASCE (5 points each, 10 points max):	-
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G. COMMUNITY SERVICE, PUBLIC SERVICE, HISTORY & HERITAGE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (10 Points Maximum)

NOTE: ASCE also awards a History and Heritage Award. If you have such activities and want to be considered for that award, describe those activities here and submit a copy of this application directly to Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@asce.org.

Describe public service projects (2 points):	
Describe History and Heritage Activities (2 points):	Celebrated 90 years of the presence of the ASCE Puerto Rico Section in the island.
Describe Government Relations activities (2 points):	<i>The first Infrastructure Report Card for Puerto Rico was created and presented.</i>
Describe Sustainability Seminars held by the Section/Branch promoting the advancement of the principles of sustainable development (2 points):	Dr. Gregory Morris provided the Infrastructure Commission a whitepaper that targets non-revenue water problem-solutions based on sustainability. The expert will provide a series of meetings to promote its work.
Describe Community Service events (1 point each, 2 points max):	In joint efforts with the CIAPR, inspection to houses affected by the earthquakes in the Lajas municipality.

H. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (15 Points Maximum)

ASCE supports and encourages the equitable opportunity for all people to participate within the civil engineering profession without regard to gender or gender identity, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, or family, marital, or economic status. ASCE’s Committee on Diversity and Inclusion reviews this section to select Outstanding Section/Branches for their efforts in developing and implementing programs that promote an inclusive climate in the profession.

Describe Section/Branch Diversity Seminars / Programs (1 point each, 5 points max):	The Section Board have committed to Diversity and Inclusion through different aspects. For example, we decided to include students as “attendees” in our board, government affairs initiatives, outreach, etc. Moreover, people with different backgrounds are encouraged to join our efforts.
Describe Section/Branch Diversity Committees and Diversity in Section/Branch Leadership Positions (5 points):	Our Section Officers, Directors, Attendees, and Infrastructure Commission members are part of a general concept of Diversity and Inclusion. We have members part of LGBTTQ+ community, women, different economic backgrounds, Afro Americans, White ethnicity, students, multiple generations (members from early twenties to mid-seventies), different parts of the island, born and raised in other countries, variety of political backgrounds, etc.
Describe participation in local community diversity programs (5 points):	-

I. ADDITIONAL SECTION / BRANCH ACTIVITIES (10 Points Maximum)

Describe any other non-standard activities that are not covered under other sections of the nomination form that your Section or Branch has undertaken to promote or advance the Civil Engineering profession to either your members or the public. Note that Sections applying for the award should not include their Branch activities and vice versa for Branches. These can include other Community Service projects, hosting of Regional meetings, fundraising, mentoring, and other best practices. Describe the activity and give dates, locations and number in attendance. Also

describe any activities relative to the creation of a Section / Branch strategic plan and/or efforts to support the Society’s Strategic Initiatives (ie. sustainability efforts). These activities may also be eligible for the Leader Training Committee Best Practices Manual. A maximum of two (2) points will be given for each of up to five (5) non-standard activities.

Type of Activity/Event/ Initiative:	Date (if applicable):	Describe:
Resolución Conjunta del Senado 465 (Legislative Bill)	January-March	Supported the draft and the development of senate bill to convert Report Card’s recommendations into a national infrastructure plan.
Infrastructure Infographic	May-October	Created a special committee/commission for the creation of a Spanish-based infrastructure infographic to better communicate the importance of infrastructure
Mutual Cooperation Agreements	2019-Present	Joined efforts with a variety of governmental and non-for-profit entities with the goal to improve Puerto Ricans quality of life.
Section and Region virtual meeting	2020	Hosted 1 meeting that involved R5 officers and section to give an update on efforts and initiatives
Created the PR Geolnstitute Chapter	2020	Created the ASCE PR Geolnstitute Chapter. The current Chair is Engineer Luis O García.
Dos Bocas Reservoir	2020	The Dams Commission is working towards implementing an engineering program to solve a life-sedimentation problem in a reservoir that supplies water for 100,000+ citizens. Moreover, has lost over 50% of drinking water capacity and it does not look like the problem is going to be solved anytime soon.
Culebra Landfill Project	2020	Design a program with members to help the municipality of Culebra with its solid waste problems. The program has been design and will be implemented in year 2021.