



2018 Tarnai Award Winners - Andrew Hopkins of the University of North Florida Public Opinion Laboratory and Casey Seay the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research

Andrew Hopkins of the University of North Florida Public Opinion Laboratory and Casey Seay of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research have been awarded the 2018 John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). The award provides a scholarship in memory of John Tarnai, former AASRO president, and recognizes outstanding but relatively new Survey Center employees with great promise for pursuing a long-term careers in survey research. The scholarship defrays the cost of attending the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), the umbrella professional organization for academic, government, private sector and non-profit survey researchers) or the International Field Directors and Technology Conference (IFD&TC).

In nominating Hopkins for the scholarship, Dr. Michael Binder, Faculty Director of the UNF Public Opinion Laboratory, wrote: "Andrew is integral in every stage of research design, from questionnaire construction and sampling to weighting and data analysis." Andrew first started as a part-time interviewer, as have many in survey research, and has expanded skills and experience so that he is now assistant director of the Public Opinion Research Lab, responsible for supervision of projects, training new staff, and working with clients. In her nomination of Seay for the Tarnai Scholarship, Dr. Jolene Smyth, Director of the Bureau for Sociological Research wrote: "Casey Seay started at BOSR a year and a half ago as a Data Worker. Within a couple of months, he displayed such great ability and eagerness to do more that we quickly promoted him to full-time, Project Associate. Now, another year later, we have made Casey the Project Manager for a large, two-year project in order to better take advantage of his many talents."