



Sean McKinley of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center Winner of AASRO's 2018-2019 John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship.

Sean McKinley is one of two winners of this year's John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship, awarded 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 academic survey center employees who are early in their careers, but who show great career promise. The award promotes the winner's attendance at one of two professional meetings – the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), which is the umbrella organization for academic, government, private sector and non-profit survey researchers, or the International Field Directors and Technology Conference (IFD&TC), a related set of meetings that is more operationally focused.

The University of New Hampshire Survey Center where Sean is employed runs the Granite State Poll, in addition to conducting other survey research work. Joining the UHN Survey Center in 2015 with a Political Science background, Sean McKinley became an essential part of the team in a few short months. With strong skills in data visualization, writing, and knowledge of statewide and national politics, Mr. McKinley spearheaded several projects that improved the efficiency and quality of UHN Survey Center's final reports utilizing the Tableau application. Mr. McKinley quickly excelled and became a lead researcher at the UHN Survey Center in developing survey questionnaires and searchable question banks.

Center Director Andrew Smith wrote that McKinley's technology has enabled their center to “work on deeper projects and research using the vast data from nearly two decades to produce reports” and that Sean's contributions have “suggested several ways the UNH Survey Center can remain relevant and valuable within the University, within the state, and within the industry.”

In addition to sharing his knowledge and experience with other UNH staff, Sean co-presented his Tableau techniques in a special webinar for AASRO members. Joining the survey profession at a time of great change and challenge, Mr. McKinley's enthusiasm, inventiveness and creativity are valuable assets to the UHN Survey Center and to the larger survey research community. Mr. McKinley is a well-deserved recipient of the 2018-2019 Tarnai Memorial Scholarship award.