The Thomas N. Urban Research Award recognizes outstanding research or scholarly contributions to Iowa education. The award is named for Thomas N. Urban, Chairman and former Chief Executive Officer, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Throughout his tenure at Pioneer (spanning over thirty years), Mr. Urban demonstrated the importance of research not only to industrial progress but also to the advancement of society and education. Under his leadership as Chair of the Excellence in Education Task Force, research became a cornerstone of education in Iowa. With his vision and the support of numerous other Iowa leaders, the First in the Nation in Education (FINE) Foundation was established and charged with the mission of improving teaching and learning in Iowa classrooms through the use of educational inquiry.

The Thomas N. Urban Research Award ($2,000) will be awarded each year in which there is a worthy recipient. Serving as the selection committee, the Iowa Academy of Education will critically review nominations and recommend a recipient. The award also provides $2,000 to support the recipient’s dissemination efforts.

**Purpose**

The Thomas N. Urban Research Award is designed to:

* Recognize outstanding educational research or scholarly efforts in Iowa
* Perpetuate Mr. Urban's conviction that quality research and scholarship are the driving forces behind improved practice/results
* Recognize Mr. Urban for his support for research and education

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for the Thomas N. Urban Research Award, an individual must:

* Be nominated by a member of the Iowa Academy of Education who is familiar with the general area of research or scholarship completed by the nominee
* Have published the research or scholarship in a refereed publication within the past two calendar years prior to the nomination deadline
* Live and work in Iowa at the time of the nomination
* Not be a past or present member of the IAE

**Submission Criteria**

Each nomination must include:

* A nomination form completed by the nominator (see enclosure)
* A letter from the nominator (see enclosure)
* A copy of a published research study
* A copy of the nominee's curriculum vita or resume

All required materials must be combined in one PDF or Word document in the order above and sent electronically via email to mstrathe@iastate.edu by noon on July 1 of the year of nomination (or first business day after).

**Selection of Awardee**

A three-person committee of the Iowa Academy of Education will read each set of nomination papers. The Committee will recommend no more than one potential awardee to the Iowa Academy of Education by August 1.

Criteria for the selection of the awardee will be:

1. **Published Research or Scholarship –** To qualify, the work must be published in a professional/scholarly journal, a scholarly book, a volume of proceedings of a professional society meeting, or as a technical report series. Dissertations, unpublished manuscripts, and other non-refereed works will not be considered.
2. **Compellingness –** The work should deal with a research problem or scholarly issue that is manifestly important for education and whose findings, conclusions, or policy implications will be eagerly anticipated by the reader.
3. **Originality –** The study should offer a fresh look at an educational problem or issue, offer an innovative analysis or interpretation of a phenomenon, and/or fill a significant gap in existing ideas or evidence on an important matter.
4. **Technical Quality –** Whatever the form of the research or scholarship - be it a quantitative or qualitative analysis using social science methods, historical research, legal analysis, critical inquiry, or some other form of recognized scholarship - those who review the proposal will look for evidence that the investigator has mastered rigorous standards of methodology or appropriate techniques in the approach taken. The research or scholarship must be regarded as technically sound by leaders in the respective field of inquiry.
5. **Likely Impact –** If a research or scholarly work is compelling, original, and of high technical quality, it is likely to have a strong impact on education. Also considered will be its timeliness and likelihood of generalizing across educational contexts in the state.

**Nominee Information**

Name       Phone

Mailing address

**Nominator Information**

Name

Title of published research or scholarship

Publication outlet (full citation and date)

Please provide your letter of nomination under cover of this nomination form. Your letter should be 1-2 pages, single spaced, and state why you believe the research and the individual named here deserve the Thomas N. Urban Research Award. In particular, state how, in your view, the research or scholarship advances knowledge in the field and will impact education and educational practice in Iowa. Also explain what makes the research unusually compelling, original, and of high technical quality.

The award is highly competitive; many otherwise competent research and scholarly works will not be singled out for recognition. The committee is looking for evidence of scholarly exceptionality in any work it recognizes with the award.