



Reopened Call for Applications

2026 Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education

New application deadline: Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

The Commission on the Status of Minorities and the Minorities and Communication Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) are pleased to reopen the call for applications for the 2026 Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education.

Reopening the call will provide additional time for a broader pool of qualified individuals to apply and will ensure that all applications are considered through a consistent and equitable review process.

Important Information for Previous Applicants

Individuals who submitted their materials during the earlier 2026 application period do not need to complete a new application. They have the option to update their materials and resubmit for consideration. If they choose this option, the complete application packet must be received by the October 30, 2026, deadline, otherwise their candidacy will be evaluated using the first submission. All applications received during the reopened period will be reviewed together using the same criteria and procedures. Please confirm with the MACD Head receipt of a previously submitted 2026 application.

Please send completed applications and/or questions to Dr. Rafael Matos, macdivision1971@gmail.com.

About the Award

The Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education recognizes outstanding individual accomplishment and leadership in advancing the study, teaching, and understanding of racial and ethnic diversity in journalism and mass communication.

One of AEJMC's prestigious honors, the Barrow Award is jointly supported by the Commission on the Status of Minorities and the Minorities and Communication Division.

The late Dr. Lionel "Lee" C. Barrow Jr. was a longtime AEJMC member who provided leadership and guidance throughout his many years of service. In 1968, Dr. Barrow founded the Ad Hoc Committee on Minority Education to recruit, train, and place racial and ethnic minorities in communications. In 1970, he founded and became acting head of the Minorities and Communication Division. He received the AEJMC Presidential Award in 1997 and, in 2005, was recognized with the AEJMC Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to promoting diversity within the association and the discipline.

The award honors Dr. Barrow's legacy while recognizing individuals whose scholarship, teaching, service, and leadership continue to advance racial and ethnic diversity in journalism and mass communication education.

Eligibility and Application Options

Applications are welcomed from qualified scholars, educators, administrators, practitioners, and other individuals whose work meets the award criteria. Individuals do not have to wait to be nominated by an AEJMC member. Candidates may apply on their own behalf, provided their application includes two letters of support from current AEJMC members.

AEJMC members are also encouraged to share this call with qualified colleagues and to support or nominate individuals whose contributions deserve recognition.

Judging Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on outstanding contributions in at least two of the following three areas:

1. A sustained record of research and publication concerning racial and ethnic minorities in journalism and mass communication;
2. A sustained record of contributions to teaching and service supporting racial and ethnic minorities in journalism and mass communication; and/or
3. Publication of an influential book addressing racial and ethnic minorities in journalism and mass communication.

Application Requirements

A complete application packet must contain:

1. **Personal statement:** A statement of no more than 350 words presenting the "big picture" of the applicant's research, teaching, service, or leadership, including relevant philosophies, impact, and outcomes. Applications based on an influential book should briefly explain the story behind the book, its development, and its impact.
2. **Curriculum vitae:** A CV of no more than three pages highlighting information directly relevant to the award criteria.
3. **Letters of support:** Two letters from current AEJMC members. At least one letter must specifically identify and discuss the applicant's contributions in the area or areas for which the individual should be recognized.
4. **Supporting materials:** Relevant materials may include, but are not limited to, research abstracts, professional papers, published articles, speeches, course materials, innovative teaching resources, teaching evaluations, documentation of service or leadership, or evidence of other recognition. No more than five published articles or professional papers may be included.

Submission Instructions

The complete application must:

- Be combined into a single PDF file;
- Contain no more than 15 pages, including supporting materials; and
- Be received by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, October 30, 2026.**

Applications exceeding the 15-page limit may be disqualified.

Please email the complete application packet to **Dr. Rafael Matos** with the subject line:
2026 Barrow Award Application – [Applicant's Name]

Questions about the award or the reopened application process may be directed to Please send completed applications and/or questions to Dr. Rafael Matos, macdivision1971@gmail.com.

We encourage AEJMC members to help us reach a broad and accomplished pool of candidates by sharing this call throughout their professional and academic networks.