Greetings fellow INFORMS Railway Applications Section (RAS) members,

The RAS organization is currently seeking nominations for RAS Distinguished Member Award to be conferred at the 2019 INFORMS Annual Meeting to be held in Seattle.

The success of the RAS organization depends upon two things: the generous support of its sponsors and the contributions of its volunteer leadership. While the volunteer efforts of all our members are valued, certain member contributions go above and beyond the expected, resulting in lasting impact to the organization. The efforts of such members give RAS new direction, needed support, and inspire others to contribute. The RAS Distinguished Member Award began in 2012 as a way to recognize member contribution of great impact. This award is not necessarily given every year, and will only be award if nominations of members of noteworthy contributions are obtained.

The criteria for a recipient of this award are as follows:

- Over 10 years of membership in the RAS organization
- Significant and lasting impacts and contribution to RAS
- Participation in at least three of the following four areas:
  1. Elected RAS Officer
  2. Assisted in different non-elected RAS activities, including but not limited to: cluster chair, roundtable chair, newsletter editor, Award Committee, etc.
  3. Served as RAS session chair, presenter, or invited speaker
  4. Supported RAS programs either by leading or sponsoring

The recipient of the award will receive a commemorative plaque as well as recognition at the 2019 INFORMS Annual Meeting in Seattle.

If you would like to nominate a deserving RAS member who meets the above criteria for the RAS Distinguished Member Award please submit a nomination letter to the award committee chair, Michael Gorman (michael.gorman@udayton.edu), by August 1, 2019 that includes the following information:

- Who is nominating (name, affiliation and contact information)
- Who is being nominated (name, affiliation and contact information)
- Nomination letter body
  - Why is this person worthy of this award?
  - Why are these contributions long-lasting?
- A list of contributions to RAS:
  - Elected RAS positions held
  - RAS volunteer efforts
- History of RAS membership
- RAS Presentations/Roundtables/Sessions
- Other RAS contributions
  - Any contributions to the theory or practice of OR/analytics for railways

Letters of nomination must be received by August 1, 2019. Review of the nomination letters will be conducted by an award committee composed of current officers, past recipients of the RAS Distinguished Member Award, and past RAS chairs. A final determination of the 2019 winner for the RAS Distinguished Member Award will be made by September 1, 2019. The award decision will be publicly announced at the 2019 INFORMS Annual Meeting to be held in Seattle.

Please direct any questions you may have about the award to the current committee chair, Michael Gorman at michael.gorman@udayton.edu, the current RAS president Shantih Spanton at shantih_spanton@csx.com, or the RAS secretary Steve Tyber at tyber@ge.com.

Thank you so much for all your support. We look forward to seeing all of you in Seattle in the fall.

Steve Tyber
On behalf of the RAS officers