# Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring

- The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) represent the highest honors bestowed by the U.S. government upon mentors who work to expand science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) talent.

- The Awards were established in 1995 and the first awards were bestowed in 1996. Since then, more than 300 individuals and organizations have been recognized for their exemplary service.

- Awardees serve as leaders in the national effort to develop fully the nation's human resources in STEM. Protégés are students and early career STEM and STEM-related professionals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, women, persons with disabilities, and persons from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds.

- In 2020, the White House announced 15 recipients as PAESMEM awardees.

- Nominations, including self-nominations, are submitted for "Individual" and "Organizational" PAESMEM awards from public and private sectors including industry, academia, K–12 education, military, government, non-profit organizations, and foundations.

- Nominations are sought for exceptional STEM or STEM-related mentoring in formal and/or informal settings. Nominations are accepted from all geographical regions in the U.S. and all its Jurisdictions (including those designated by Congress under the National Science Foundation [NSF]'s Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCoR]).

- Each mentor completes an online application that demonstrates at least 5 years of mentoring excellence.

- Selection committees of outstanding scientists, mathematicians, engineers, STEM education researchers, STEM educators, and other STEM or STEM-related professionals review nominations. Recommendations are sent to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for final selection.

- Awardees receive a certificate signed by the President, a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and join a cadre of over 300 PAESMEM alumni. They also receive a $10,000 award from NSF.

- The Excellence Awards in Science and Engineering (EASE) Program within NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) administers PAESMEM on behalf of OSTP.

- The EASE Program also manages the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST; paemst.org).

- For additional information and a list of awardees since 1996, go to PAESMEM.net.

- Media may contact Michelle Negrón at (703) 292-2829 or mnegron@nsf.gov.

# Meet the Awardees

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDEES

**Joe Cecil**
Oklahoma State University

**Paul Charles**
US Naval Research Laboratory

**Olivia A. Graeve**
University of California, San Diego

**John Robert Hatherill**
Del Mar College

**Overtoun Jenda**
Auburn University

**Mulatu Lemma**
Savannah State University

**William Earl McHenry**
Mississippi e-Center at
Jackson State University

**Marie T. Mora**
University of Missouri–St. Louis

**Eve Ann Riskin**
University of Washington

**Maria Cristina Villalobos**
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**Angela Wandinger-Ness**
University of New Mexico
Health Sciences Center

**Sheldon Weinbaum**
City College of New York

## ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDEES

**Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA)**

**Mathematical Sciences Research Institute**

**National Cancer Institute at Frederick**