

FINAL DRAFT - NEARC Scholarship Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide criteria for future members of the Northeast Arc Users Group (NEARC) Board of Directors (BOD) or their designees for awarding scholarships to applicants to both the Spring and Fall Conferences. Before determining how many scholarships to give out, the BOD should determine the amount of money in the scholarship fund. While there is not a separate fund for scholarships, the NEARC Community agreed to a \$25 registration increase in 2015 to cover expenses of a scholarship fund. It is the discretion of the BOD to set the scholarship fund amount before each conference.

It is important to provide the best programming for our attendees that we can. The scholarship fund allows the Board to encourage quality speakers regardless of financial means. The scholarship fund should be noted in the call for papers email and on the NEARC website.

The criteria/priority for awarding scholarships for attending NEARC conferences is listed below.

- An applicant who has been accepted as a presenter should be given the highest priority for scholarship so as to continue to provide the best programming possible.
- Students who wish to attend a conference. This will allow the Board the opportunity to provide those students different perspectives of the GIS industry.
 - a. If not already presenting, students should be encouraged to submit a poster.
- Key professionals who may provide executive level perspectives. For example, if the BOD or Host Committee wishes to have a State of the States presentation, but one of the state leaders does not have the budget to travel out of state, then a scholarship should be offered.
- Host committee members. There is great value in having spring host committee members attend the fall conference in order to provide open dialog. The same is true for the spring conference. This will allow the BOD the opportunity to have debriefing or planning meetings face-to-face.
- Past NEARC board members. Past board members provide invaluable institutional knowledge.

The Chair of the Board of Directors shall have the authority to award or rescind scholarships to individuals, based upon the Chair's discretion, should there not be enough time for the BOD to vote upon such decisions.

The applications for scholarships should be released no later than the day after the call for papers and abstracts closes.