

The E. James Potchen Awards in Geography annually recognize a “Graduate Geographer of the Year” and an “Undergraduate Geographer of the Year” (\$1000)

Background:

These are the highest student awards given out by the Department of Geography, Environment, & Spatial Sciences (GEO), and come with considerable honor. Winners have their names engraved on a plaque that is displayed permanently in the Department. The award is in honor of Dr. E. James Potchen, University Distinguished Professor, Radiology Chairman Emeritus, Professor of Management in the College of Business, Professor of Lyman Briggs College, and Professor of Physiology at Michigan State University. Dr. Potchen was the author of 31 books during his tenure at MSU. His career and appreciation of geography have inspired many students and faculty members, as well as setting a positive example of “Team MSU.”

Eligibility:

Students must actively be completing a degree program offered by the Department. Winners of these awards must have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, as evidenced by cumulative grade-point average, rigorous coursework, and (for the graduate award) successful involvement in research, as indicated in their application and as supported by recommendation letter(s) from faculty. Additional, but important, criteria include timely progress within the degree program, as well as leadership in, and service to, the Department. Students who have earned this recognition will have shown remarkable professionalism and leadership skills in activities within both the Department and the campus community. They are seen as positive role models for the Department and its many students, faculty, and alumni. They will have advocated for geography when interacting with university officials, policymakers, and campus organizations.

To Apply

Students interested in being considered for this award must be nominated by at least one member of GEO faculty or academic staff. The following should be e-mailed to Dr. Ryan Shadbolt (shadbolt@msu.edu) by the deadline of 01 March, 5:00PM ET.

- (1) Completed application form (see next page).
- (2) Letter(s) of nomination by one or more members of GEO faculty or academic staff. *Students should contact the faculty member(s) at least two weeks prior to the above deadline to allow enough time to complete this task.*
- (3) Curriculum Vitae (if a graduate student)

Recipients will be invited to attend the annual GEO-GTU Awards Reception, and may be asked to write a letter expressing appreciation to the estate that funds the award.

The application form is on page 2—delete this page of instructions before submitting your application.

STUDENT APPLICATION
The E. James Potchen Awards in Geography

Name:	Level (Check one): Undergrad ____
E-mail:	M.S. ____ Ph.D. ____
GPA (overall):	Expected graduation date:

GEO Courses (completed & in progress)		Non-GEO Courses related to award criteria (completed & in progress)	
Course Name	Grade	Course Name	Grade

Add lines if needed.

Related Activities and Relevant Experiences (e.g., work, internship and/or volunteer experience)

Add lines if needed.

Graduate Students Only – Thesis/Dissertation Topic (50-word description)

Add lines if needed.

Career Plans:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing or drawing.

Add lines if needed.