

Early Career North American Exchange Program Application



Application Deadline: June 1

Next Cycle: 2027

Program Overview

Established in 2025, the IPPS Southern Region Early Career North American Exchange Program supports emerging horticulture professionals by providing financial assistance and professional development opportunities through participation in an IPPS Eastern or Western Region Annual Meeting, followed by reciprocal engagement with the IPPS Southern Region.

Program Eligibility

Applicants must meet **one** of the following criteria:

- Be 35 years of age or younger, or
- Be new to the horticulture industry

Additional eligibility requirements:

- Must be a current IPPS Southern Region member.
- Must hold a valid U.S. passport at the time of travel for meetings held outside the US.
- All travel arrangements are the responsibility of the selected Delegate (not IPPS Southern Region).

Award Details

- \$2,000 travel stipend to support airfare and lodging
 - Conference registration fees covered by the hosting IPPS region
 - Delegate will attend either the Eastern or Western Region Annual Conference
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Delegate Responsibilities

Selected Delegate is expected to:

- Participate in an interview with the IPPS Communications Director for promotional purposes
 - Submit a professional biography (200 words) and a high-resolution photograph
 - Attend all functions at the hosting region event, including the opening remarks and awards ceremony where the delegate will be introduced
 - In the following year:
 - Present a 20-minute program at the IPPS Southern Region Annual Meeting recapping your experience
 - Submit a corresponding written paper reflecting on the exchange program for the Southern Region proceedings
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Application Instructions

To be considered, applicants must submit the following:

1. Completed application form
 2. 200-word professional biography and high-resolution photograph
 3. One letter of recommendation from: A current or former professor, professional supervisor, customer, or colleague
 4. Required essay responses (see below)
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Applicant Information

Full Name:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Education

Institution Name:

Institution Address:

Degree or Certificate Earned:

Dates Attended:

☐ If not completed, please indicate highest level achieved:

Employment Experience

(Please list your **most recent** position first)

Employer / Organization:

Dates of Employment:

Position Title:

Brief Description of Responsibilities:

Professional Reference

Please attach one educational or professional reference (no family members).
Include name, title, organization, email address, and phone number.

Required Essay Responses

(Maximum 400 words total; may be submitted as a single document)

1. Professional Engagement with IPPS

Describe your involvement with IPPS to date. How has participation in meetings, committees, or networking opportunities influenced your professional development?

2. Purpose and Value of the Exchange

Explain why participating in the IPPS International Exchange Program is important at this stage of your career. What specific learning opportunities or professional outcomes do you anticipate?

3. Contribution and Impact

How will you contribute to the IPPS community during and after the exchange? Include how you plan to share knowledge gained with the Southern Region and the broader horticulture industry.

Additional Information

- Have you previously presented at an IPPS Southern Region Annual Meeting?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, what year did you present?

Please include any additional information that strengthens your application including leadership roles, research, industry involvement, or unique experiences.

Applicant Agreement

I certify that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I understand the responsibilities associated with participation in the IPPS Southern Region Early Career North American Exchange Program.

Signature:

Date:

Submission Information

Application Due: June 1

Please submit completed applications to:

Donna Foster

Email: scplant@bellsouth.net

Phone: (803) 743-4284