



# Division of Experimental Criminology Academy of Experimental Criminology

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## CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The DEC/AEC are currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award:** The Jerry Lee Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to a scholar who has demonstrated a lifetime of achievement in the field of experimental methods.
- **Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial:** The Award for Outstanding Experimental Field Trial is given to a researcher, or team of researchers, in recognition of a rigorous and impactful experimental field trial.
- **Student Paper Award:** The Student Paper Award is given for a single outstanding paper utilizing experimental methods to analyze criminology/criminal justice-related topics/issues.
- **Joan McCord Award:** The Joan McCord Award recognizes a scholar who has made distinguished experimental contributions to criminology and criminal justice over the course of their career.
- **Outstanding Early Career Experimental Criminologist Award:** The Outstanding Early Career Experimental Criminologist Award recognizes exceptional early career scholarship.
- **AEC Fellows/Honorary Fellows:** Fellows are scholars who have successfully led field experiments in criminology and/or whose work has made substantial contributions to experimental criminology.

Award nominations are due by July 1, 2025. For full award and nomination information, please see: <https://expcrim.org/call-for-awards/>.

## SUMMARY OF DEC 2024 STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNER

**Ballou, A. (2024). Degrees of difference: Do college credentials earned behind bars improve labor market outcomes? *Criminology*, 62(1), 129-155.**

It is widely held that providing postsecondary education programs to incarcerated individuals will improve postrelease labor market outcomes. Little research evidence exists, however, to support this view. To test the effect of postsecondary carceral education credentials on employer perceptions of hireability, this study uses a factorial design to survey a sample of employers nationwide ( $N = 2,538$ ). Employers were presented with résumés of fictional applicants applying to a job as a customer service representative at a large call center. The résumés randomized education credentials earned while incarcerated. Results indicate that employers were significantly more willing to interview applicants with postsecondary education credentials relative to applicants with only a General Educational Development (GED) diploma. Although Black applicants who had earned a sub-baccalaureate certificate saw improvements in hireability relative to GED holders, Black applicants who had earned a bachelor's degree did not. In contrast, White applicants benefited both from sub-baccalaureate certificates and bachelor's degrees. Results from a mediation analysis suggest that these credentials signal important information to employers.