

Distinction in Research and Creative Works in CEVE

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEVE) will recognize graduating seniors for outstanding creative contributions with the award of “Distinction in Research and Creative Works in CEVE.” The CEVE Department recognizes this award as being a significant honor. As such, it will be awarded to no more than 20% of a graduating class (rounded up to next whole number). This award shall be given for significant contributions in research, design, and creative projects *beyond routine class assignments* (except CEVE 499). Generally, it is expected that the student recipients will have performed research/design for a minimum of two academic segments (one segment = one academic year or one summer) during their undergraduate career (either for credit or pay). It may be given for one outstanding piece of work or for consistent meaningful contributions made over the course of an undergraduate career. All CEVE (BS and BA) majors with a GPA of 3.30 or higher in all courses completed at Rice are eligible and will be considered for this distinction in the spring prior to their graduation.

Application/Nomination

To be considered for this distinction, a student must:

- Declare her/his intention to apply for this distinction by notifying the CEVE department office in writing (ceve@rice.edu) 1 week prior to Spring Break the semester of their expected graduation
- Electronically submit (ceve@rice.edu) a portfolio (single pdf) to the CEVE department office by the end of the 10th week of the same spring semester

This portfolio must include:

- A one page abstract that is well written and that concisely summarizes the work and the roles of all individuals involved (fellow undergraduate and graduate student collaborators, faculty advisors, other mentors, etc.)
- Copies of all papers, final reports, etc. from research and design projects. These must have been completed while the applicant was an undergraduate at Rice but may have been conducted off campus with non-Rice collaborators. Links to code, videos, etc. also are acceptable. It is better if the Departmental Awards Committee has more information on which to base a decision; however, it is important to stress quality over quantity.

In addition, the applicant should arrange for one or more letters from faculty advisors to be sent to the CEVE department (ceve@rice.edu) by the same due date. These letters should attest to the student’s contribution to the project.

After all application materials are received, the CEVE Department Awards Committee will consider all applications. Based on the portfolio submitted and the expectations outlined below, the Committee will provide (prior to the end of the 12th week of classes) to the Department Chair a list of students to receive this distinction. Final approval rests with the Chair.

Expectations

Many CEVE students conduct undergraduate research and/or projects during the academic year and over the summer. In their portfolio abstract, applicants must demonstrate how their contributions go above and beyond the norm and how they are truly distinguished. Examples could include, but are not limited to:

- Publication of an article in the research literature (either conventional journal or one focused on undergraduates; consideration will be given to manuscripts that have been submitted)
- Presentation of the work at a regional or national conference
- Publication of the work in a Rice research journal
- Winning of an award at the Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium or other special Rice symposium
- Receiving an award from an ASCE-sponsored competition, such as Concrete Canoe