



Announcing Winners of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Research Fellowship Competition



The Forerunner Federation and the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences (BHAAAS) are pleased to announce and congratulate winners of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Research Fellowship Awards.

The mission of BHAAAS is advancement and development of arts and sciences in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Diaspora in the United States and Canada, as well as building bridges of knowledge with the homeland. "This Fellowship program was established to encourage student research in arts and sciences, directly related to Bosnia and Herzegovina" – says Alexandar Hermon, President of BHAAAS.

The Forerunner Federation is committed to promoting competitive participation of underrepresented minority nations in sciences and influential arts. The Federation advances inclusive society and cultural diversity by supporting minority serving education and leadership development. "The BiH Research Fellowship is designed to show appreciation for academic accomplishments and help reaching stated research goals" – says Andrew Balas, President of the Forerunner Federation.

The competition was open to open to students who have Bosnian-Herzegovinian background, are enrolled in an accredited, degree granting university or college, show a record of accomplishments, and demonstrate good support by teachers and/or community leaders. The fellowship awards provide short-term financial support, ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. Each of the three winners of this year's competition, listed below in the order of their birthplace, should be proud to receive the maximum award, \$1000 per fellowship.

Suzana Kvrđić (Banja Luka, political science)

The fellowship project is titled "The political impact of Diaspora BiH in general elections and democratic processes of the mainstream." The fellow is currently enrolled student in the Notre Dame College, United States. About a third of the total population of Bosnia and Herzegovina lives in other countries. Many members of the Diasporas keep frequent contact with the homeland and often

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influence elections and policy development. The fellowship project focuses on the evolving relationship of the Diasporas with the multiethnic homeland and examines how they contribute to the development democratic traditions. Reviewers highlighted that “The need/rationale to address the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina’s Diaspora, as well as its political activities, is well described.”

Ljubiša Mičić (Banja Luka, economics)

Successful nation branding on the global scale plays an influential role in areas of tourism, export, foreign investment and public policy. A strong country brand attracts interests and opportunities and therefore contributes to better life. Unfortunately, Bosnia and Herzegovina is not on the list of countries where nation branding research is done. That is the reason why the proposal chose conducting research on this subject. The fellowship project is titled “Country as a subject of branding with special reference to Bosnia and Herzegovina.” “The candidate’s choice of the research topic is excellent” – noted the review. The fellow is currently enrolled student at the University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Nejra Tatar (Visoko, transportation sciences)

This project was prompted by the statistics that during the month of July 2010 years for only 27 days lost 24 human lives. The basic idea of the project is to prepare lectures and promotional film alerting young people to the consequences of non-compliance with traffic regulations, speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs. The fellowship project is titled “Road Safety for All, Young Drivers.” The ultimate goal is to increase young people's awareness and save human lives on the roads. The reviewers commented “this is a clearly defined and stated project whose benefits are identifiable and measurable. The activities are well planned and achievable.” The fellow studies at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Reviewers

After competitive review of all eligible applications, the fellowship award recipients were ranked by the International Fellowship Award Council jointly appointed by BHAAAS and the Forerunner Federation. The partnering organizations would like to express deep appreciation for the excellent review work of the International Award Council: Mirsad Hadzikadic, Chair (Charlotte, North Carolina), Snjezana Buzov (Columbus, Ohio), Djenita Pasic (Louisville, Kentucky), Azra Terzic (Crestwood, Kentucky), Emina Tokovic (Detroit, Michigan).