



**Action of the 2008-2009 ASA Council
By Unanimous E-mail Vote
May 14, 2009**

Council Members Participating: Arne Kalleberg, Clara Rodriguez, Debra Minkoff, Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Douglas McAdam, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, John Logan, Marc Schneiberg, Margaret Andersen, Marjorie L. DeVault, Mary Pattillo, Mary Romero, Patricia Hill Collins, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Robin Stryker, Rosanna Hertz, Rubén Rumbaut

Council Members Absent: Dalton Conley, Omar M. McRoberts,

Honoring the late Carla B. Howery, retired ASA Deputy Executive Officer and Director of Academic and Professional Affairs

President Patricia Hill Collins responded to the outpouring of requests by ASA Council members to honor Carla B. Howery, who died on March 31, 2009, after retiring from over 25 years of service to the ASA due to ill health. President Collins suggested that Council consider a motion to honor Carla by renaming the ASA Teaching Enhancement Grant Program, which Carla began, *The Carla B. Howery Teaching Enhancement Grants Program*.

She provided the following background information from ASA Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman.

What would most honor Carla?

Carla would greatly appreciate Council's recognition of her life-long mentoring and support of young sociologists who want to be better teachers; her support of teaching and learning scholars who want to improve the art and science of teaching; and her support of those who work diligently in the teaching trenches for their whole careers but rarely get recognized for their contributions to the discipline. Those who receive the ASA Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award do get such public recognition, but they are also often well known scholar-teachers.

Carla's fierce commitment was to actively advancing teaching as well as honoring teachers which is why she started the *ASA Teaching Enhancement Small Grants Program*. It is a competitive, grass roots ASA program, supported by many members' small donations each year to the Teaching Enhancement Fund (TEF) and by contributions at the yearly fund-raiser ("Just Desserts") at the Annual Meeting. TEF grants provide practical financial support to members' efforts to improve teaching sociology in ways that significantly advance the discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The small grants often go to teachers who could not otherwise experiment with pedagogy because they lack resources.

The TEF grants are nationally competitive and provide recipients with recognition at their home institutions as well as at the national level because ASA publicizes the recipients and their work. Just Desserts has always been the major place where all those in ASA who feel as Carla did about teaching gather annually to celebrate teaching, graduate students who want to learn to teach better, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and recipients of the TEF grants. Selecting the recipients of the TEF small grants each year was one of Carla's greatest pleasures and a constant reminder of what she was accomplishing through her work at ASA.

Carla's many friends and colleagues in ASA, the State and Regional Sociological Societies, and aligned sociological societies such as Sociologists for Women in Society of which Carla was a past president, would welcome this acknowledgement of her past, present and future contributions to teaching and learning through the annual award of these ASA grants.

Before her death, Carla was deeply honored by being selected as the 2009 ASA Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award recipient which will be given posthumously at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco. But she was a little uneasy as well, because she felt the important roles ASA staff play were different from the important roles ASA members play, especially those recognized by the ASA major awards. Nevertheless, members have honored Carla directly by selecting her for the Teaching Award, making Carla the only permanent ASA staff member ever to receive an ASA major award.

The ASA Section on Teaching and Learning has already named its teaching award for Carla, and SWS is considering naming an award for her as a former president and activist. Regional associations, including

the Midwest Sociological Society which was special to her and she to it, are considering ways to honor her. But the ASA TEF Program is uniquely Carla's accomplishment. Listing her in perpetuity among the recipients of the ASA Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award is a lasting recognition from the ASA; giving small grants every year in her name that improve the teaching of sociology will continue Carla's lifetime work.

Motion: To recognize and honor Carla Beth Howery for the work in which she took most professional and personal pride—enhancing the discipline of sociology through practical ways of nourishing the fruits of great teaching and by recognizing those who labor in its vineyards at all levels—the ASA Council renames the Teaching Enhancement Fund and its program of grants for the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning as *The Carla B. Howery Teaching Enhancement Grants Program.*

Passed unanimously, May 14, 2009.