



COTA Best Dissertation Award

Established in 1996, the Chinese Overseas Transportation Association (COTA) is a non-profit professional organization registered in Maryland, United States, whose members are Chinese professionals and students who work or study overseas in the transportation or related fields. The mission of COTA is to provide a platform for its members to network, and promote transportation innovation through research, education and information exchange. More information of COTA can be found online at: <http://www.cota-home.org/>.

The COTA Best Dissertation Award is established to recognize outstanding students with Chinese nationalities for their accomplishments of pursuing doctoral degrees in the transportation field. The award will be presented annually to two selected graduate students for their PhD dissertations, one in transportation policy & planning and the other on transportation science & technology.

Eligibility:

All doctoral students with Chinese nationalities are eligible to apply. The dissertation must have been completed and accepted during the past academic year (September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016). There is no limit to the number of nominations that can be submitted from an institution.

Prize:

The award offers a prize of \$2,000 for each selected dissertation. The winners will be recognized at the COTA Winter Symposium in conjunction with the TRB Annual Conference held in January annually in Washington, D.C. The winners are expected to present their work at the COTA winter symposium.

Nomination:

The dissertation must be nominated by the student's major advisor. The nomination package should be submitted by the student to the COTA Best Dissertation Award Committee in electronic files (pdf only) including:

- Copy of the full dissertation (either in English or Chinese);
- One published or accepted paper by an English journal (the paper must be from the dissertation work with the student as the first author);
- Nomination letter from the student's major advisor clearly stating the category of application and eligibility of the applicant.

Submission Deadline:

All nominations must be submitted no later than November 15, 2016. Submissions or questions should be directed to the COTA Chair of Academic Affairs, Prof. Xiaokun (Cara) Wang of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (wangx18@rpi.edu, please also cc cota.award@gmail.com). Submission emails should have "COTA Dissertation Award Application_Last Name_First Name" in the subject line.

Review Process:

The COTA Best Dissertation Award Committee will establish review subcommittees for each of the award categories, with at least four reviewers for each nomination. Should no suitable candidates qualify for the award in a particular year, the Award Committee reserves the right to not grant an award.