



## FIRST TRACKS AWARD

FOR INNOVATION IN SEXOLOGY

### First Tracks Award Criteria

#### A. Purpose of the Award

The term 'first tracks' refers to the imprint made by someone who is the first to blaze a trail across new-fallen snow. I created the First Tracks Award to recognize individuals or organizations in sexology who are innovative educators, who develop useful models or areas of research, or who provide consulting or counseling in new ways. Other sexology awards honor publishing, research excellence, work quality and service. This award recognizes those who not only think differently but who also turn their ideas into action.

#### B. Description of the Award

The First Tracks Award consists of the annual presentation of a First Tracks Award trophy. The recipient will also be provided with a sample press release that can be sent to media outlets. Honest Exchange LLC will publicize the award presentation as well. The award is funded annually by Honest Exchange LLC.

#### C. Criteria and Qualifications

The emphasis in judging applicants for the First Tracks Award will be on how effectively the innovation addresses its stated objectives, which may relate to the enrichment of an area of sexology, to individual's lives, to organizational practices, etc. The evaluation criteria that will guide the panel of judges will include:

##### 1. Originality of the innovation:

- Is it a new concept or a variation of an existing idea?
- Was it developed independently or in cooperation with others?

##### 2. Impact of the innovation:

- Does it or will it make a fundamental shift in or a minor change?
- What is the expected impact of the innovation?

##### 3. Practicality of its application:

- Can it be integrated into existing forms of practice, i.e., education, therapy, research, technology, entertainment?
- Is it be cost-effective to implement?
- Does it present any risk to the sexological field, to existing practices or to human health or happiness?
- Is the innovation sustainable, or is it a one-time event?

##### 4. Measurability of the benefits:

- Is there a measurable benefit in terms of human health (emotional or physical), to professional practice, to advocacy or other areas?
- How are or will benefits be measured?

##### 6. Applicability:

- Is this an innovation that can be applied by other professionals or organizations?
- Could it lead to changes in how members of the sexological field carry out their work and/or mission?

Individuals and organizations may apply for the First Track Award annually but will only qualify to receive it once in any 5-year period. They may re-apply in the sixth year after winning the award. Management and employees of Honest Exchange LLC are not eligible for the award. Members of the Selection Committee are not eligible for the award during the year(s) they serve.

**D. Nomination and Selection Process**

All nominations must be submitted on the official First Tracks Nomination Guidelines posted at [www.honestexchange.com](http://www.honestexchange.com). The application deadline is midnight, May 31, of every year. Applications will be accepted throughout the year, with a cut-off date of 30 days prior to the announcement of a winner.

Self nominations are welcome, as are nominations by another person, if permission is granted by the nominee.

Applications will be reviewed and voted by a Selection Committee consisting of the president of Honest Exchange LLC and two other individuals in the field of sexology, selected by the president. Selection Committee members must recuse themselves from the review if they have a close relationship to any nominee whose application they would be reviewing.

**E. Presentation of Award**

The First Tracks Award will be presented at the recipient's workplace, if the recipient chooses to pay travel expenses for the presenter. Otherwise, the award will be presented at an event attended by both the recipient and presenter (e.g., a professional conference), or the award may be shipped to the recipient in lieu of an in-person presentation.

**F. Award Modification Policy**

Honest Exchange LLC reserves the right to make changes in the award criteria and presentation terms without notice. Such changes will not occur during the application and review period for any given year.

© 2012. Honest Exchange LLC. All rights reserved. [www.honestexchange.com](http://www.honestexchange.com)