Current Description:

In honor of Martha E. Maiden’s leadership, dedication and tireless efforts to nurture the ESIP Federation into a vibrant and mature organization, this award was established in 2009 to recognize outstanding service to the Earth science information community. This award honors individuals who have demonstrated leadership, dedication and a collaborative spirit in advancing the field of Earth Science information.

This award is named for Martha E. Maiden, NASA Program Executive for Earth Data Systems. Ms. Maiden is widely credited for nurturing the ESIP Federation in its infancy and has overseen its growth and maturity. ~~This award will be presented on a regular basis, but not less than one time each year.~~ **This award will be presented annually at the January meeting. The award is open to non-ESIP members. ESIP members should be considered first, before we consider a non-ESIP member. If a non-ESIP member is selected, they should then become an ESIP member.**

**Application Procedure**

Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis. To be considered for the January meeting, a complete nomination package (in pdf format) is due by October 31 of the preceding year. The following materials are required:

* Nominating Letter
* Curriculum Vitae
* Biography (1 page)
* At least 2 supporting letters

**Please address the following in the nomination package:**

**\* The nature of the leadership role that the nominee has taken within the Earth Science information community.**

**\* Characteristics that demonstrate the nominee's dedication to the principles of Earth Science information access and sharing.**

**\* How the nominee exemplifies the collaborative spirit of the Federation.**

The nominations will be reviewed by a small subcommittee of ESIP Federation partners. Applications can be held over for future award cycles and will require an updated nomination package.

**Proposed Committee Makeup and Charge:**

1) Five member Committee – Vice President to Chair, 3 Type Reps, 1 At Large

2) Members rank the top 3 candidates privately to the Chair, include basis for their rankings.

3) Chair tallies the rankings:

- if unanimous, committee’s work is done,

- if not unanimous, Chair calls for a telecon to discuss and attempt to come to concensus or to get agreement by all members to support one nominee.

- if no concensus, Chair can break a tie. It is not required that all committee members agree on a single nominee (although this is desirable). If there is no leading candidate, the Chair will ask the ExCom for guidance.