



2016 Tarnai Award Winner - Ashley Koning of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP), Rutgers University

Ashley Koning, Assistant Director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ has been awarded the 2015 John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). The award provides a scholarship in memory of John Tarnai, former AASRO president, and recognizes an outstanding early career survey research professional with great promise for pursuing a long-term career in survey research. The scholarship defrays the cost of attending the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) or the International Field Directors and Technology Conference (IFD&TC). In addition to her position as ECPIP Assistant Director, Koning is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Rutgers, and holds a masters in political science from Columbia University.

Koning's primary role at ECPIP is to manage day-to-day operations of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, which celebrated its 200th poll across 45 years in December 2015. In nominating Koning for the scholarship, Dr. David Redlawsk, ECPIP Director wrote: "Without Ashley's tireless work, the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll would not be as effective as it is, and more importantly, would not be providing the high quality educational experiences for our students that it does."

She has authored several studies including an experiment involving response measurement published as book chapter in [Oxford Handbook of NY State Government and Politics](#). She is also co-author of a chapter on public opinion during and after Superstorm Sandy and its implications for NJ Gov. Chris Christie in a new Rutgers University Press book, *Taking Chances: The Coast after Hurricane Sandy*, edited by Karen M. O'Neill and Daniel J. Van Abs.

The AASRO Awards Committee was especially impressed how quickly Ms. Koning has moved to a management position in Rutgers ECIP. She also developed an internship program that helps Rutgers students directly learn public opinion research and help disseminate interesting research findings to a broader audience.