Jim Johnson (Dr. J) was a dedicated teacher who devoted himself to helping students discover and develop their own potential. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge and celebrate Dr. J’s commitment to inspiring others, and to being the type of teacher students remember later in life as someone who really made a difference. This award will be given to one student a year at the Department of Psychology’s annual awards ceremony. The award will be in the amount of $500, and an award will be given for 10 consecutive years. The awardees’ names and photos will appear on a commemorative plaque that will be displayed on the awards wall in the Department of Psychology.

To be eligible for this award, students must (1) be a psychology major, (2) have completed at least nine hours of course work in Psychology at Illinois State University at the time of application, and (3) have a minimum overall GPA of at least 3.0 at the time of application.

To apply, students must write a one-page, double-spaced essay, in APA format (i.e., title page and body of text, and references only if papers are cited), that describes an inspirational experience they had with Dr. J or any other university professor. Specifically, it should be the sort of experience the student will look back on later in life and say, “that person really made a difference in my life.”

The title page of the essay should contain the following: (1) the title of the essay, (2) the student’s name, (3) the name of the award (i.e., the Jim Johnson Inspiration Award), (4) the student’s affiliation (i.e., Illinois State University), and (5) a list of the psychology courses the student has completed at ISU at the time of application, and the grade associated with each course.

Essays should be saved in .pdf format and sent to JimJohnsonAward@ilstu.edu by April 7, 2017. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by Wednesday, April 19, 2017. The winner will be expected to attend the Department of Psychology Honors Colloquium/Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 27, 2017, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in DeGarmo 551.