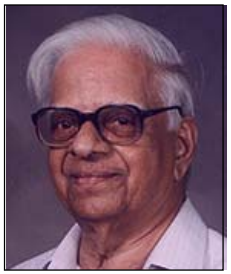
A.P. Seethapathy
Rural Electrification Excellence Award



The IEEE A.P. Seethapathy Rural Electrification Excellence Award was established in 2008 to recognize exceptional power engineers who have worked, implemented or innovated better and cheaper electrification technologies for the rural sector. To be eligible for the award, an individual must be active in the field of rural electrification for at least 5 years.

The family of A.P. Seethapathy established the award to honor his passion to ensure electrification in rural environments. In his life work, A.P. Seethapathy worked to promote affordable energy in developing countries and rural electrification as an engineering priority. This award recognizes individuals who share the late A.P. Seethapathy's vision of rural electrification.

The award is co-funded by the IEEE Power & Energy Society and the IEEE Industry Applications Society. The initial endowment was funded in part by a donation from the family of A.P. Seethapathy.

The recipient receives a sculpture, a certificate, $US500, and a travel stipend of up to $US1,500.

Previous recipients

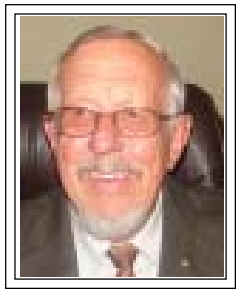
- William H. Kersting is the inaugural recipient of the award.

A.P. Seethapathy
Rural Electrification Excellence Award

William H. Kersting

2009 Recipient

For significant contributions to the profession of rural electrical distribution engineering by teaching students to understand and appreciate required theory and practical applications



William H. Kersting was born in Santa Fe, NM and is a Life Fellow of IEEE. He received the BSEE degree from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, and the MSEE degree from Illinois Institute of Technology.

He joined the faculty at New Mexico State University in 1962 and served as Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the Electric Utility Management Program until his retirement in 2002. He is currently a consultant for Milsoft Utility Solutions. He is also a partner in WH Power Consultants, Las Cruces, NM.