



## THE PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Nomination Form

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Since 1982, in recognition of the mission of public service at the University of Maine, the President has annually presented the Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award to an individual University of Maine faculty or staff member who has demonstrated distinguished achievement in public engagement as part of their university work. Tenured UMaine, UMM and Cooperative Extension faculty, full-time lecturers (in their sixth year of service or beyond), and staff (in their sixth year of service or beyond) are eligible for this award.

Public engagement is the application of the special knowledge and skills associated with one's professional life at the University of Maine to enhance the public good, whether through public education, direct assistance in specific situations, or long-term commitment towards achieving particular public service goals. Hence, the definition excludes some forms of "community service," such as serving as a scout leader or participating in other service activities that do not necessarily require one's professional expertise or specialized knowledge of the University. However, this definition is meant to include service that advances the effectiveness of or contributes to the mission of the University even if it does not require the discipline-specific expertise of the nominee.

The Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award acknowledges and celebrates public service responsive to the needs of our fellow citizens at the present moment. The awards process will give special consideration to nominees whose efforts have produced tangibly positive outcomes for the University community and/or the broader community. The recipient receives a medallion and monetary award.

Nominations should be submitted to Taylor Defa ([taylor.defa@maine.edu](mailto:taylor.defa@maine.edu)) in the Office of the President, 200 Alumni Hall on or before **Friday, March 06, 2026**. Please contact Taylor if you have any questions.

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(May use a separate sheet to list group members, if necessary)*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department or College: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Must presently be a member of the UMaine Community)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Nomination Guidelines

### **Criteria of excellence**

Since 1982, in recognition of the mission of public service at the University of Maine, the President has annually presented the Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award to an individual University of Maine faculty or staff member who has demonstrated distinguished achievement in public engagement as part of their university work. Tenured UMaine, UMM and Cooperative Extension faculty, full-time lecturers (in their sixth year of service or beyond), and staff (in their sixth year of service or beyond) are eligible for this award.

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### **Nomination and selection process**

- Nomination materials must be submitted to Taylor Defa in the Office of the President by **Friday, March 06, 2026**.
- The Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award Committee will review nominations and submit its recommendation to the President via the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development.
- Criteria include sustained leadership, innovative ways of working for the well-being of citizens and communities, documented excellence in extending professional expertise, evidence of impact on community served, and a demonstrated level of responsibility that goes above and beyond what is expected.
- The Award will be announced and presented by the President in May.

### **Nomination Materials**

- A completed Nomination Form. Nominees must be full-time faculty or staff.
- A statement from the nominee outlining the nature of their public engagement, its scope, its impact, and the amount of time they have devoted to it.

- A letter from the nominator addressing the nominee's accomplishments, with an explicit focus on how those accomplishments have advanced the public good. The nominator must include evidence of outcomes, which may include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - the specific benefits conferred on the people, organizations, or communities reached through the nominee's service;
  - testimony from those people, organizations, or communities about the impact of that service; and testimony from a person or persons uniquely qualified and/or credentialed to speak about
  - the nominee's service and its impact in an informed or professional way (e.g., a health care provider, a state agency head, etc.).
- The nominee's CV

Please direct questions to Taylor Defa (taylor.defa@maine.edu) in the Office of the President. Thank you.