

Exemplary University-Community Partnership Award

Purpose

The University of Minnesota *Exemplary University-Community Partnership Award* recognizes one project/program annually for exemplary a community-university partnership that embodies the University of Minnesota's public engagement definition: *"The partnership of university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good."*

Eligibility

Units, departments, and project/program teams from any University of Minnesota campus are eligible to be nominated for the *Exemplary University-Community Partnership Award*.

Previous nominees who did not receive the award may be renominated; previous winners of this award are ineligible.

Nominations

Any faculty member, staff member, student, or University-affiliated community member or group can submit a nomination in support of a candidate. Self-nominations are also accepted. The nomination process involves the submission of a formal nomination dossier (see below for a list of required items).

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the documented evidence of the following criteria:

- Discussion of how the partnership between the University and community partner(s) started and how it has evolved. Nomination should discuss how the partnership is mutually beneficial to the University partner(s) and the external partner(s);
- Significant impact(s) for both University and external partner(s) is documented;
- Evidence of how scholarship in the area of study has been developed as a result of the program/partnership; and,

- Thoughtful discussion of what the program/partnership has learned through the work.

For the purpose of this award, community is broadly defined to include audiences external to the University, and can include non-profit organizations, businesses, governmental agencies, educational institutions, and other institutions. The engaged work can focus on local, state, regional, national, or global issues.

NOTE: Successful dossiers will be made available for public review. University employees may publish information from these dossiers in materials regarding the *Exemplary University-Community Partnership Award*. Dossier contents will be publicly available except for information covered by the Minnesota Data Privacy Act. Private or personal materials should not be included as part of the dossier.

Submission Packet

The submission must include the following components, presented in one PDF file:

- **Nomination Cover Sheet (see final page for template)**
- **Abstract (300 words)**
Summarize the community-university partnership and the scholarship embedded in the partnership. Describe how the partnership intentionally studies community issues, jointly derives solutions and then “publicizes” what was discovered.
- **Relationship and Reciprocity Between the Community and University (500 words)**
Describe the issue, its significance, the relationship between the university and community, and how reciprocity is a part of the relationship: Who are the university and community partners? How does an engaged partnership fit into the mission, values and organizational structure of the university? Who are the key community and university partners? How did the university and community work together: what was the role of each partner and what was accomplished? Provide evidence of shared decision-making and partnership empowerment.
- **Impacts (500 words for each sub-category)**
 - **Impacts on Community Partner(s) (500 words)**
What were the anticipated benefits for community partners? What changes have occurred in the community? Change indicators should include, but not be limited to, knowledge generation and sharing, economic, social and educational outcomes within the community, as well as additional dollars generated through grants, contributions, fees, etc. Identify initial funding that supported development of this engagement scholarship initiative and describe how you are addressing sustainability.
 - **Impact on University Partner(s) (500 words)**

What were the anticipated benefits for university partners? What has been the effect on the university? How has the university-community partnership affected the missions of the university and what has changed? Outcomes must include scholarship (as defined above in Evaluation Criteria), and may also include (but are not necessarily limited to) student success and development of human capital.

- **Lessons Learned and Best Practices (500 words)**

What were the challenges for the community and university partners and how were those challenges met? What conclusions and best practices can be drawn from the partnership? These could include but are not limited to: the processes of being partners and sustaining a partnership, innovative solutions to community issues, changes in the partnership or changes within one of the partners. Applicants must include information about how these conclusions and best practices have been documented and shared publicly.

- **Appendix (6 page limit)**

Applications must include a letter from a community partner or consortium of partners. This letter must provide evidence of collaboration, reciprocity, mutual benefit, and the roles of community partners. Additional pages in the appendix can include documents that describe the impact of the partnership. This could include summaries of evaluations, letters of support, news releases, scholarly products, etc.

- **How to Submit**

To submit, send nominations to Amber Cameron acameron@umn.edu

Annual Award

The recipient of the *Exemplary University-Community Partnership Award* will receive a one-time \$5,000 award that will be transferred to the recipient's college between mid-September and mid-October. Subject to approval of the recipient's dean or director, this award is recommended to support the program/partnership. Award funds may be hosted at the University, hosted with a designated community partner, or shared between the University and external partner.

Additional Information

For questions about the award or nomination procedures, please contact Amber Cameron, Director for Public Engagement Initiatives, in the Office for Public Engagement at acameron@umn.edu.

Nomination Form Template

Nominee Name:

University Department:

University Campus:

Nominee Email:

Current rank (if faculty) or title:

(IF APPLICABLE)

Nominator Name:

University Department:

University Campus:

Nominator Email: