The Office for Public Engagement invites nominations for the **2018 President's Awards for Exemplary Public Engagement**. These awards recognize individuals, projects, programs and units that have made outstanding contributions to addressing a significant societal need and enhancing public well-being through community-engaged research, academic study, teaching, applied learning, creative activity and public service. The award program honors those who exemplify the important role UAlbany and its partners play in improving life in our communities — local to global — and those who through their own individual work are advancing and disseminating knowledge, discovery and scholarship that will benefit individuals, institutions and communities at home and abroad.

**INTENT OF AWARD**

The award acknowledges collaborative efforts and partnerships that emphasize two-way, mutual benefits, as well as exemplary work on the part of an individual, project, program or unit.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- UAlbany faculty, staff, projects, programs and units (colleges, schools, centers, institutes, departments, etc.)

- Full-time UAlbany undergraduate and graduate students with a strong academic record

Self-nominations are accepted.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS**

**Nominations are due by Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 11 p.m.** Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of University at Albany faculty and staff. Award winners will be notified in March 2018. Please email your nomination to mhunt@albany.edu.
HOW TO ENTER

Please complete and submit the following documentation with your nomination:

- **Nomination entry form** (This 2-page pdf can be found at the end of this document on pages 6 and 7. Please print it and complete both pages.) If the nominee has been working in collaboration with a partner, please include the name of the partner, whether an individual, organization or agency, in the nomination materials so that they can be honored alongside their UAlbany collaborator.

- **Statement** of no more than 1,000 words prepared by the nominator explaining how the publicly engaged work/project of the nominated individual, project or program meets the CRITERIA outlined below. The statement should make the case for why the nominee is deserving of this award.

- **CV/resume** of nominee (If the nominee is an individual, please submit a CV or resume. If the nominee is a project, program or unit, please submit the CV(s)/resume(s) of the leadership overseeing or managing the project, program or unit.

- **Two letters of support** for the nominee. The letters should address points raised in the STATEMENT and how the nominee/nominated activity meets the award CRITERIA listed below.
  
  a. When the nominee is a faculty or staff member, please submit at least one letter of support from a relevant external partner or collaborator.
  
  b. When the nominee is a student, please submit one letter from the chair of the student’s department and one letter from an external partner or collaborator.

- **Print or digital materials that support the nomination** (photos; print collateral such as flyers, brochures and reports; videos; podcasts; apps; web links; etc.)

CRITERIA

The University is seeking to recognize exemplary publicly engaged work that:

- Addresses an important societal need and enhances public well-being. Please provide evidence, when possible, of best practices used in the work.

- Uses a collaborative or partnership approach between the University and a community or communities. Ideally, these relationships will reflect mutual, two-way benefit. In addition,
the awards program encourages the recognition of individuals, projects, programs and units that are advancing and disseminating knowledge, discovery and scholarship that will benefit individuals, institutions and communities at home and abroad.

- Uses practices that build relationships and trust through such characteristics as mutuality and reciprocity, responsiveness, and respect for partners.

- Demonstrates significant community impact, including short- and long-term benefits. This will vary significantly but here are some examples: progress towards reducing or preventing disease; improved student success in urban schools; businesses started and jobs created; policy work that has been adopted; creation of civic infrastructure, whether at home or abroad; improvement in sustainable approaches; and heightened public awareness of critical social issues.

- Demonstrates a commitment to sustained effort; continuity and committed effort over time are highly valued. The awards program will also consider important emerging work that demonstrates consideration for sustainability.

**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE**

In addition to meeting the CRITERIA above, applicants are provided the following targeted guidance. An APPENDIX on page 5 of this document includes definitions that may be helpful.

- For UAlbany Faculty, Staff and Programs/Projects: The major focus should be on exemplary UAlbany publicly engaged scholarship, research, teaching, service, or some combination thereof, which makes a significant contribution to enhancing public well-being.

- For UAlbany Students: The major focus of this program should be on exemplary work the student has done through UAlbany:
  a. Course-connected engagement with an external organization or partner
  b. Research projects involving an external organization or partner
  c. Recognized national or international service programs
  d. Sustained service work with an external organization or partner, applying the student’s knowledge or expertise (often course-connected)
  e. The application may be supplemented with relevant volunteer activities, whether through personal initiatives or University-sponsored clubs/groups to demonstrate
level of commitment. Leadership and other efforts to involve UAlbany students in public engagement are also important. (This award is distinct from other awards at the University that primarily focus on volunteerism.)

RECOGNITION

Award winners will be honored during the 2018 President’s Awards for Exemplary Public Engagement Ceremony on Monday, April 30, 2018 in the Recital Hall at the University’s Performing Arts Center.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or require additional explanation or information about the nomination process, please email Mary Hunt, Manager of Programs, Office for Public Engagement, at mhunt@albany.edu or call 518.442.3470.

PAST Awardees

- View videos about the 2016 Award Winners
- View videos about the 2017 Award Winners
APPENDIX: Working Definitions of Public Engagement Terms

**Public Engagement** is the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities—including those of diverse interest, type, and place from local to global—for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in the context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and 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. [Note: Public engagement includes varying degrees of involvement from community outreach and service (e.g., an event offered to the public) to full engagement with two-way relationships focusing on addressing a public need or interest (e.g., research working with families to improve educational outcomes for their children.)]

**Communities or Publics** are individuals, groups and entities external to the university, including those from the public and private sectors and local to global geography, who may share a common place, interest, affiliation, identity, occupation or profession (non-academic), faith or situation.

Public engagement cuts across research, creative activity, teaching/learning and service. The area of service can entail a wide range of activities—such as in publicly engaged courses for students and varied work for faculty and staff. Some definitions are offered below.

**Student service through publicly engaged courses or programs** involves educational experiences where students work with or for external communities in mutually beneficial collaborations or activities. Such interactions are intended to deepen students’ knowledge, skills and civic awareness through academic, research, or other types of university credit-bearing learning while addressing community needs and enhancing public well-being. This work could entail direct or indirect service (e.g., assessing community nutrition needs). Often, some or all of this work occurs off campus but the use of technology can facilitate alternate interactions.

**Faculty and Staff Public/Community Service** is the UAlbany-connected application and provision of professional expertise to address public needs and interests working with external groups for mutual benefit. Activities may entail direct and/or indirect services and range widely from clinical services, technical assistance and expert testimony to running community-oriented programs. There may be varying levels of engagement.

**Community Service and volunteerism** (not course-connected for students, and not UAlbany-connected for faculty and staff) entail various acts of assistance to address community needs, whether on a one-time or regular basis, without financial reward. Such work, however, is not the focus of this award but examples may supplement the nomination to show personal commitment.

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1 Working definitions as of September 30, 2014
The 2018 President’s Awards for Exemplary Public Engagement

NOMINATION ENTRY FORM

Instructions:

1. Before completing the following nomination cover sheet and entry form, please read the information presented on pages one through four of this document.
2. Print a blank copy of the nomination cover sheet and entry form.
3. Complete the entire nomination cover sheet and entry form.
4. Return the completed nomination cover sheet, entry form and supporting materials via email to Mary Hunt at mhunt@albany.edu by 11 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2017. If you are not able to submit your nomination through email, please contact Mary Hunt to make other arrangements.

ABOUT THE NOMINEE

Who is the nominee? Circle one: a) Faculty  b) Staff  c) Student  d) Project/Program  e) Unit

Name of nominee __________________________________________________________

If an individual, what unit does he/she work within? __________________________________________

Primary contact for nominee (the contact may actually be the nominee)

________________________________________________________

Contact’s position and title ________________________________________________________________

Contact’s unit at UAlbany _________________________________________________________________

Contact’s phone number ___________________________ Email ______________________________

Contact’s address ______________________________________________________________________

If the nominee is a student, what is the student’s major? __________________________________

What is the student’s overall GPA? ______________ GPA in major? ______________

ABOUT THE NOMINATOR

Name of the individual making the nomination _____________________________________________

What is the nominator’s affiliation to UAlbany ______________________________________________

Nominator’s phone number ___________________________ Email ______________________________

Additional comments ____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
The 2018 President’s Awards for Exemplary Public Engagement

NOMINATION ENTRY FORM (continued)

1.) Name of Nominee __________________________________________________________

2.) List each PRIMARY external community partner or collaborator that should be recognized (individuals and/or organizations) and its contact information.

3.) List each PRIMARY internal UAlbany partner or collaborator that should be recognized (individuals, programs, units, etc.) and its contact information.

4.) Is the work the nominee is being considered for based on publicly-engaged scholarship and/or research, teaching, applied learning, creative activity or service? (Circle all that apply.)
   a) Scholarship   b) Research   c) Teaching   d) Applied Learning   e) Creative Activity   f) Service

5.) If service to communities is involved, please explain the type of service as defined in the Appendix.

6.) Is the nominee’s work a long-term effort with sustained impact? Circle one: a) Yes   b) No
   If yes, for how long has the nominee been engaged in this work? __________________________

7.) Is the nominee’s work an emerging initiative with a plan for sustainability and impact?
   Circle one: a) Yes   b) No
   Additional information _________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________