The Office for Public Engagement invites nominations for the 2020 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 partnership 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 welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are due by Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11 p.m. Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee that includes University at Albany faculty and staff. Award winners will be notified in March 2020. Please email your nomination and supporting materials to mhunt@albany.edu. You may also drop off your nomination materials in person to Mary Hunt at the Office for Public Engagement. Please contact Mary at (518) 442-3470 to schedule a time in advance.

HOW TO ENTER
We do not have an online nomination process at this time. All materials should be submitted in electronic format. Please complete and submit the following paper documentation with your nomination:

- **Nomination entry form**: A downloadable pdf of the nomination form may be accessed from this website. Please print it, read carefully, and provide answers to all questions. 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 may be honored alongside their UAlbany collaborator.

- **Statement** of no more than 1,000 words prepared by the individual making the nomination. The statement should explain 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 awards CRITERIA listed below.
  a. When the nominee is a faculty or staff member, or a unit or program of the University, 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.

- **Materials that support the nomination**, such as photos, publications, flyers, brochures, reports, videos, podcasts, apps, and web links. When possible, please scan and submit documents, or submit files electronically in appropriate format, e.g. Word, PDF, JPG, and PNG.

**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 relationship 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.

• For UAlbany Faculty, Staff and Programs/Projects/Units: 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 2020 President’s Awards for Exemplary Public Engagement Ceremony on Monday, April 29, 2020 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, Office of Government and Community Relations, at mhunt@albany.edu or call (518) 442-3470.