

2006 Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards

Recognizing excellence in community service on higher education campuses in Connecticut

Community Service is volunteering by individuals or an organization to benefit a community or its institutions. Connecticut's higher education institutions impact communities through service programs implemented and volunteered by students, student groups and educators.

The Connecticut Commission on Community Service (CCCS) and the Department of Higher Education are proud to honor volunteers at the annual Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards.

In 2006, the Community Service Awards will be a dinner ceremony held on Tuesday, April 25, at 6:00 pm at the Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill.

This year, three awards will be given: one to a student, one to a student group, and an Innovative Program Award to a faculty or staff member. This year's awards ceremony is to recognize volunteers for service completed from Fall (September) of 2004 through Fall (December) of 2005.

Nomination Process

Nominations for these prestigious awards must be submitted on-line, by the identified Community Service Representative on the campus.* Community Service Representatives may submit only (1) nomination in each category.

I. Nomination Cover Sheet

Only one nomination in each category may be submitted on-line by the campus Community Service Representative and must contain all contact information.

II. Nomination Narrative

The Nomination Narrative is a 250 word to a 700 word statement describing the community service activities and involvement as directed on the online application. The Nomination Narrative will be used extensively by the reviewers when selecting the award recipients. The narrative should be written specifically for the category to which the nominee is being nominated and must answer the questions outlined under "Nomination Narrative Information" in each category description.

III. Reference Letters

The Community Service Representative must ensure that there is a letter of reference for each nomination. The reference letter may be submitted by anyone familiar with the nominee's work such as student peers, school administrators, and faculty members. The letter of reference should support the information provided in the nomination. All Reference Letters must be submitted by mail. **Fax and Electronic letters will not be accepted.**

IV. Support Material – Innovative Program Award Only

One 8 ½" x 11" page of supporting materials may be included in the nomination packet. This could include a newspaper article, photographs, brochure, etc. Audio or video tapes, display materials, scrapbooks, etc. will not be accepted. Supporting documentation received after the deadline will not be considered. Supporting materials will not be returned.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be submitted to the Connecticut Commission on Community Service online at cccs.ctdhe.org, no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 17, 2006. All supporting materials (letter of reference and Innovative Program Award supporting materials) must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2006.

Selection Process

One award recipient will be selected in each category by an objective panel of community service leaders.

Notification

CCCS will confirm receipt of nominations by e-mail by Monday, March 24, 2006. The award recipients will be announced at the 2006 Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards Dinner and Ceremony on Tuesday, April 25th.

Award Categories

Individual Student

The 2006 Individual Student Award will be presented to a student who has served as a model of leadership in community service. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership in the development and implementation of community service within the campus community. The nominee must have demonstrated initiative and creativity in community service participation. This nominee must have engaged in community service that resulted in a positive impact on his/her school or community.

Nomination Narrative Information for the Individual Student Award

Please provide the following information in the Nomination Narrative:

- 1) Explain, with examples, how your nominee has served as a model of leadership for other students engaged in community service.
- 2) Describe how your nominee has demonstrated initiative and creativity in their community service participation.
- 3) Describe how the school and/or community has been impacted as a result of the student's involvement.
- 4) Describe how the student has been positively impacted by their involvement in community service.

Student Group

The 2006 Student Group Award will be presented to a student group who has served as a model of leadership in community service. This student group helps support active participation of students in volunteerism. The group must have demonstrated a vision for community service and advanced student volunteerism through action and advocacy.

Nomination Narrative for the Student Group Award

Please provide the following information in the Nomination Narrative:

- 1) Explain, with examples, how your nominee has served as a model of leadership, helping to support active participation of students in volunteerism.
- 2) Describe how your nominee has demonstrated a vision for community service and advanced student volunteerism through action and advocacy.
- 3) Describe how the nominee has demonstrated an impact within the campus community in a minimum of two of the following areas;
 - Advocacy
 - Professional development
 - Links to other school initiatives
 - Partnership development
 - Successful replicable program models

Innovative Program Award

The 2006 Innovative Program Award will be presented to a higher education service-learning program that demonstrates innovation and excellence. The program should incorporate key elements of high-quality service-learning, and have a sustainable impact on the participants and the community.

Nomination from higher education programs in which service-learning is part of the curriculum may be submitted. Although the word "program" is used, nominations will be accepted for a particular "project" as long as it has a long-term impact. Programs and projects that are ongoing will receive priority.

Nomination Narrative Information for the Innovative Program Award

Please provide the following information in the Nomination Narrative:

- 1) Describe the program or project, including how it incorporated the key components of service-learning. Answer the following questions:
 - What community need is being addressed and how was it identified?
 - What service occurred in response to this need?
 - Did you partner with any groups or organizations in the community?
 - How was your work linked to what students were learning in the classroom?
 - What methods did you use to reflect on the experience?
 - How did you evaluate the impact of the project on the student participants and the community?
 - How did you celebrate your work when it was done?
- 2) In what ways did students act as leaders throughout the experience? (For example, conducted the interviews that assessed the community need, planned the project, etc.)
- 3) How did the program impact the students who participated, and how did it continue to impact them afterward?
- 4) How did the project make a difference in the community, and how does it continue to make a difference? (Please include quantifiable data. For example: 253 flowers were planted; 562 meals were served.)

Questions?

Contact Jason Rojas at CCCS
(860) 947-1826 or jrojas@ctdhe.org

*Community Service Representative, contact information attached.