

President's Awards for Community Engaged Scholarship Call Open for 2019-20 President's Awards for Community Engaged Research

October 23, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations are now open for the President's Awards for Community Engaged Research, which will recognize teams of campus and community representatives who have demonstrated a commitment to initiating and supporting excellence in community-campus research initiatives.¹

Developed to recognize and celebrate local (Golden Horseshoe and southwestern Ontario) community engaged research partnerships that exemplify McMaster's definition and principles of community engagement, the award will include a \$10,000 grant towards furthering a specific community engaged research project.

McMaster students, staff, faculty, or community partners are all able to nominate colleagues and partners who have developed or are leading principled community engaged research partnerships that are having an impact on their community.²

Award Details

The President's Awards for Community Engaged Scholarship will be **available to teams with a minimum of one (1) faculty member and one (1) representative of a community group who have demonstrated a commitment to initiating and supporting excellence in community-campus research initiatives**. The definition of Community Engagement used to evaluate submissions includes:

- Valuing the expert knowledge and passion that members of the community have about their communities and issues affecting them
- Fostering ongoing collaboration between University and community partners on how to better understand and consider the issues identified as priorities by local communities
- Performing research, teaching and service with community members and partners for the public good within the local community.

Community representatives may be from the public, not-for-profit, private sector, or from a grassroots community group, as long as the overall initiative meets the definition of

¹ Community-engaged research includes community-based research, community-based participatory research, action research, and program evaluation.

² McMaster's Principles of Community Engagement were co-developed with community and university partners as part of the University's community engagement strategic planning process in 2016. See Appendix for details.

Community Engagement, defined above. Initiatives must be established and in existence for a minimum of one (1) year.

All nominations will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- How the partnership aligns with McMaster’s definition of community engagement (see above)
- How the partnership strives to model McMaster’s principles of community engagement³
- How students have been involved in the project—building capacity for future leadership in the field
- How the partnership has supported and/or inspired change in the community(s) where the partnership is working⁴
- How the partnership plans to use award money to further their efforts⁵

Submission Details

The selection committee **requests nominators to submit a nomination package by Friday December 20, 2019 to community@mcmaster.ca. Each submission must include the following items:**

- 1) **Nomination Submission from nominator** that can come in one of three formats:
 - Written submission: 2 pages maximum
 - Video submission: 2 minutes maximum
 - Audio submission: 2 minutes maximum

Regardless of the type of submission, and considering the evaluation criteria noted above, each nominator is requested to answer the following questions:

- Who are you nominating?
- What is their project?
- When did this partnership begin?
- Where does the partnership take place?
- Why is the partnership worthy of being nominated?
- How does the partnership meet the criteria of the award?
- How will this partnership use the award money to further their efforts?

- 2) **Faculty Member CV(s)**

³ See appendix for McMaster’s Principles of Community Engagement.

⁴ This could include, but is not limited to, changes in policy, approaches, solutions or ways of working.

⁵ Examples include furthering research, travelling to share research at a conference or event, or hosting a conference or workshop.

- 3) Three (3) Letters/Statements of Reference for the project/initiative** for its impact on the public good. Similar to the nomination submission from the initial nominator (see 1 above), and speaking to the evaluation criteria noted above, these statements may take either a written, video or audio form.

The achievements of award recipients will be acknowledged at a community engagement event to be held in Spring 2020.

Please direct any inquiries to Ashley Shinde in the Office of Community Engagement at community@mcmaster.ca.

APPENDIX

Principles of Community Engagement

The following action-oriented principles were co-developed by community and University partners to inform our community-campus partnerships:

- 1. Relationships:** We can't have community without relationships—these are the connections that build community. Any successful partnership must be built on trusting and respectful relationships guided by integrity. We realize that relationships take time to develop and thus we commit to providing opportunities to connect people across communities, sectors, and disciplines.
- 2. Reciprocity:** From design, to participation, to the outcomes of a project, we strive to work together for mutual benefit.
- 3. Equity:** We are conscious of the historical and structural inequities that exist in society and strive to provide access and opportunities to all residents and members of our communities.
- 4. Continuity:** Acknowledging that different communities work on different timelines and schedules, we strive to consider both the short and long-term implications of our work together.
- 5. Openness to Learning:** Change takes time. We are committed to continually learn from and evaluate our work together, reflecting on and sharing both our successes and failures to grow as individuals, partnerships, and communities.
- 6. Commitment to Act:** We aspire to make a positive difference in our community by sharing and acting on our knowledge to contribute to the greater social good.