Awards and Recognition

CHARGE: To establish a University-wide process for coordinating award nominations and reviews for major internal and external public engagement awards.

RATIONALE: Traditionally, the University has taken pride in recognizing and rewarding those faculty, staff, students, and community partners, who exemplify the best in public engagement work. However, the University lacks a system-wide and comprehensive approach to the coordination and review of awards for major internal and external public engagement awards. The University should work to integrate the nomination and awards processes into the regular cycle of the appropriate departments and the Office for Public Engagement can offer support in finding appropriate nominees and in writing the applications.

RECOMMENDED TASKS AND QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

1) Identify the various internal and external public engagement related awards. Is there an appropriate range and scope of awards? Are all members of the engagement community represented in the awards that are available?

2) Develop an effective communication system for announcing awards, award nominations, and award winners. What are the most effective means for informing the necessary constituents about the various awards and the award winners? Which communication systems work best or worst for different constituencies and populations? Should there be a process for press releases and other communication about the award and award winners.

3) Develop a set of policies and protocols for processing award nominations and selecting award recipients. What systems should be in place to ensure that all eligible candidates for awards are considered or nominated? How should award nominations be handled? How should award notification be handled? Should there be separate processes for different awards or should the process be the same for all awards?

4) Explore ways to integrate engagement-specific awards into non-engagement awards programs. What overlaps are there in non-engagement-focused awards that might be aligned with engagement initiatives?

5) Identify ways to support award nominees in the completion of their application.   What are some ways to support individuals and entities who are applying for awards, to ensure the submission of a successful application?