THE AWARD

On behalf of the Board of Regents and UW System Administration (UWSA), the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs invites institutions to submit nominations for the 2016 UW System Board of Regents Diversity Awards.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize institutional change agents who have established a successful record in fostering greater access and success for students who are members of historically underrepresented populations, including African Americans, American Indians, Latinos/Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Southeast Asians, first-generation, and/or economically disadvantaged. Established by the Board of Regents during Plan 2008, the awards signify the Board’s commitment to “…achieving educational diversity at all UW System institutions... in order to fully develop advanced human potential, the jobs that employ that potential, and the flourishing of communities that sustain it,” (UW Board of Regents Resolution # 8970). This commitment continues in the current Inclusive Excellence framework.

Up to three awards of $5,000 each will be made to individuals, programs, and/or institutional units in recognition of their exceptional efforts in fostering greater equity and diversity across their institutions and communities. The funds for these awards are designated to support individualized professional development or continuing programmatic activities. Award recipients will be publicly recognized in February 2016 at the UW System Board of Regents meeting in Madison.

NOMINEE CATEGORIES

UW institutions may submit one nomination per category for a maximum of three nominations per institution. Each nomination must provide evidence of outcomes and impacts. The categories include:

- **Individual** – Any individual affiliated with the UW System and its institutions, including but not limited, to faculty, staff, and students.
- **Team** – Any joint endeavor or groups operating collaboratively on a program or initiative within the larger institutional community. Teams are not limited to formal organizational units.
- **Institution/Unit** – A college, academic/support department, or student, faculty, or staff organization recognized as a bona-fide group within an institution.
SELECTION CRITERIA

The Board of Regents encourages the nomination of individuals, teams, or units that have established a successful record in fostering greater access and success for students who are members of historically underrepresented populations, including African Americans, American Indians, Latinos/Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Southeast Asians, first-generation, and/or economically disadvantaged. Nominations which fail to meaningfully address efforts fostering greater access and success for students who are members of underrepresented populations, first-generation, and/or economically disadvantaged will not be considered.

Each nomination must provide evidence of outcomes and impacts on the eligible population(s), disaggregating data where appropriate. In addition, The Board of Regents will select the award recipients based on qualitative and/or quantitative evidence of outcomes/impacts using all of the following criteria:

1) **Sustainable positive impact** on equity and diversity, leading to positive institutional change.
2) **Accountability** demonstrated through routine assessment and use of feedback loops to promote forward movement on equity and diversity goals.
3) **Intersections** across multiple dimensions of diversity.
4) **Collaborations** with other units, departments, or communities, both within the institution and beyond.

Reflecting the broad range of activities that foster access and success for students from diverse backgrounds, the following focus areas serve as a guide in identifying the types of exemplary efforts appropriate for this award:

- Improved student **academic performance** through efforts grounded in theories, concepts, and/or methodologies that enhance diversity and advance equity, social justice, multiculturalism, educational reform, and/or inclusion.
- Effective initiatives or efforts aimed at **closing opportunity and equity gaps** for underrepresented students. This may include work aimed at closing opportunity or equity gaps among students within specific disciplines, such as teacher education or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), using pedagogies, concepts, and practices that enhance diversity and advance equity, social justice, multiculturalism, educational reform, and/or inclusion.
- Increased **retention and degree attainment** among students who are members of historically underrepresented populations, including African Americans, American Indians, Latinos/Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Southeast Asians, first-generation, and/or economically disadvantaged.
- Evidence of an established record of achievement in personal or professional development efforts related to advising, mentoring, recruitment, retention, promotion and graduation of underrepresented faculty, staff or students.
- Demonstrated K-16 pipeline efforts, such as precollege and bridge programs, which enhance/improve the **college readiness** of young adults who reside in Wisconsin.
NOMINATION MATERIALS

Nomination packets should include:

1) **Letter of Nomination**: A letter of nomination that clearly addresses the four award criteria (sustainability, accountability, intersections, and collaborations).

2) **Statement by the Nominee**: A statement describing the exemplary work of the individual, team, or institution/unit (4 page limit). The statement by the nominee should clearly articulate measurable evidence of the impact of their program under each of the four award criteria (sustainability, accountability, intersections, and collaborations).

3) **Resume / Curriculum Vitae**: A three- to five-page resume/CV of the nominee(s). Team category: please include resumes/CV of all team members. Institution/Unit category: please include a resume/CV for the coordinator/head/chair of the unit.

4) **Letters of Support**: Two or three letters of support addressing the achievements of the person or program from:
   - Chancellor, Provost, and/or Dean
   - Department Chair, Unit Head, immediate supervisor, or advisor
   - An individual who has first-hand knowledge of the program or initiative

SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

Nomination packets should be submitted to a central office designated by the respective institution. Check with your campus administration office for any institutional deadlines that precede the posted UWSA due date.

After each institution identifies the nominees that they would like to forward to the Board of Regents for consideration, please submit all nomination materials identified in the guidelines electronically as one pdf document to afgp@uwsa.edu no later than November 9, 2015.