



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF MINORITIES

2018 Diversity Awards Criteria

The Mississippi State University President's Commission of the Status of Minorities (PCSM) is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the MSU Diversity Awards. This year, nominations will be accepted in four categories: (1) Faculty, (2) Staff, (3) Student, and (4) Team/Organization. Specific criteria for the awards are listed below.

Diversity Award recipients receive a \$1,000 stipend, a feature on the wall inside the Provost and Executive Vice President suite, and free registration to the 2019 Diversity Conference.

Faculty and Staff Award Criteria

To be considered for the Faculty or Staff award, individuals should have a commitment to diversity initiatives that **go beyond normal job responsibilities**. Specifically, diversity-related job responsibilities for which the individual is evaluated on during annual performance evaluations will not necessarily warrant consideration from the PCSM Awards Committee. Individuals who have won in previous years may submit only if there are new diversity initiatives beyond what was previously submitted.

The ideal Faculty and Staff candidates should have:

1. A demonstrated commitment to the spirit of diversity through participation in extra-curricular activities and/or formal or informal initiatives at the institutional, community, state, regional, or national level,
2. Shown leadership through positive interaction among persons of different cultural backgrounds, and
3. Behavior which illustrates commitment to inclusion of persons within the institution who are members of traditionally under-represented groups.

Student Award Criteria

Nominees for the Student award can come from either the undergraduate or graduate student body. To be considered for the Student award, individuals should have:

1. A demonstrated commitment to the spirit of diversity through participation in extra-curricular activities and/or formal or informal initiatives at the institutional or community level,
2. Made diversity an integral part of their life and furthered a spirit of diversity among peers,
3. Shown leadership on formal or informal diversity initiatives in the community, and/or on the Mississippi State University campus.

Team/Organization Award Criteria

This award was designed to recognize groups for their commitment to diversity initiatives on the MSU Campus or community, such as MSU departments, student organizations, or community initiatives. To warrant consideration from the PSCM Awards Committee, nominees would likely have either:

- Developed and received grant funding to further the diversity of students and/or staff in specific fields of study that lack individuals of traditionally under-represented groups or
- Developed formal or informal programs that seek to improve the lives of others in traditionally under-represented communities or schools.

Nomination Packets

For each Individual Nominee or Team/Organization Nominee, nominators should prepare a packet that is 10-25 pages and includes the following:

1. MSU Diversity Award Nomination Form for the respective category. If nomination is for a TEAM, then a nomination form needs to be completed for each member of the team.
2. Cover letter from the nominator summarizing how the individual or team nominee(s) has demonstrated the specified criteria for the respective category. This cover letter should reference included supporting letters and materials, and clearly state how the Nominee or Team:
 - a. Demonstrates a commitment to the spirit of diversity through activities related to the promotion of diversity in the MSU community and elsewhere,
 - b. Cite specific examples of Nominee or Team's commitment, leadership, positive interactions, and behavior that show innovative and creative initiatives or actions to effectively remove barriers to inclusion,
 - c. Describe how the University has benefited from Nominee or Team's work,
 - d. Cite any civic and community involvement of the Nominee or Team outside of MSU,
 - e. Cite any professional diversity-related memberships of the Nominee or Team members, and
 - f. Cite diversity-related publications or programs of the Nominee or Team members.
3. 3 or 4 supporting letters from peers, colleagues, or supervisors.
4. Nominee should prepare a one page letter explaining why they deserve the MSU Diversity Award.
5. Additional information including pictures, newspaper articles, magazine articles, diversity-related publication, and/or diversity program materials produced by the nominee that would further support the nomination.

Nomination Process

One (1) Adobe portable document file (pdf) of the entire packet must be submitted to diversityawards@msstate.edu by 5:00 p.m. on March 9, 2018. Winners will be notified on or before March 28, 2018. Award recipients will be expected to attend the MSU Diversity Awards Ceremony & Reception. The ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, April 4 at 2 p.m. in Memorial Hall.**