The Community Advisory Board
of the
College of Arts and Sciences
Regional Engagement Award

Background:

The Community Advisory Board of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne announced in December 2010 the establishment of the Regional Engagement Award to be bestowed annually on a member of the faculty of the College for high-impact engagement with regional business and industry, government, non-governmental organizations, or the public at large.

Purpose and Process:

The purpose of this award is to recognize and celebrate examples of outstanding and high-impact engagement by members of the College of Arts and Sciences with the northeast Indiana region. Applications and nominations for the award will be solicited annually. Submitted material will be reviewed by the members of the COAS Community Advisory Board based on the award’s criteria and an awardee will be selected. The Community Advisory Board reserves the right not to make an award if none of the applications and nominations meets the award’s criteria. The winner of the award will be announced at the spring meeting of the faculty of the College. A plaque will be presented to the winner and a permanent record of past winners will be displayed by the College. All teaching faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences are eligible for this award.

Definition of Engagement:

For the purposes of this award, the COAS Community Advisory Board has adopted the Carnegie Foundation’s definition of Regional Engagement as the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The award will recognize faculty utilizing the intellectual capital and resources of the university in the assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, documentation, and dissemination of results derived from collaborations with partner organizations. Partner organizations can be businesses or corporations; local, regional, or state government; or non-governmental organizations comprising the not-for-profit and social services sector.

Criteria for the Award:

In order to be considered, projects must have been completed within the calendar year immediately preceding the February nomination deadline.

Applications and nominations for the Regional Engagement Award should address and will be evaluated based on six broad criteria. Examples of possible ways to address these criteria are provided as a series of example questions following each criterion. Applications need not address all questions but should provide information regarding each criterion.

Goals/Purpose/Problem – Are the goals, the purpose, and the problem fully described and explained? What need existed for the partner organization? What is the economic, societal, or cultural
context of the identified need? How was the partnership established?

Scholarly Resources/Framework/Theory – What is the scholarly context of the engagement? What skills, knowledge, and resources did the faculty bring to the partnership? How were students engaged in the partnership? How are the needs of the partner organization understood within the theoretical framework of the faculty member’s academic discipline? How were the challenges of the collaboration intellectually compelling?

Methods – What methods were used to address the partner organization’s needs? When multiple methods could be applied to particular aspects of the problem, what rationale are used to determine the appropriate method? Was the chosen methodology effectively applied? Were modifications to the methodology made in response to changing circumstances during the partnership?

Results – Were the goals achieved? Do the outcomes add consequentially to both the academic discipline and the region? Have additional areas of collaboration been opened as a result? How are the outcomes of the collaboration evaluated and by whom?

Documentation/Communication/Dissemination – How have the outcomes been documented? Has that documentation been made public? How have the results or outcomes been shared beyond the partner organization? Have methodologies, approaches, or techniques used in the partnership been disseminated through appropriate professional outlets?

Reflection/Assessment – Has the work been critically evaluated by the partners and if so, how? How has the experience gained through the partnership informed subsequent work? How has the result of the partnership impacted the theoretical framework, research methods, techniques, or approaches of the faculty member’s academic discipline?

Timeline:

Deadline for applications/nominations: Mid February

Review by Community Advisory Board complete: Mid March

Award announced and presented: Spring COAS Faculty Assembly or Convocation

Questions regarding the award and its criteria should be addressed to the COAS Dean