The President of the United States Honors Higher Education Institutions for Interfaith Community Service

Apply Today to the 2014 Honor Roll!
Each year, the President of the United States recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in communities through service.

The 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community challenges and as a result, more students are likely to pursue a lifelong path of civic engagement that achieves meaningful and measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

Interfaith Community Service

Interfaith community service programs foster meaningful relationships among community members of differing faiths and backgrounds. Colleges and universities submitting applications in this category must demonstrate participation of campus and community faith-based organizations, including cooperation of faculty, staff, and students of diverse faiths and secular perspectives in projects that tackle community challenges.

Eligibility
All accredited degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States are eligible to apply for recognition. Seminaries and rabbinical schools are also encouraged to apply.

Any college or university participating in the Federal Work-Study (FWS) program must meet the statutory 7 percent minimum FWS community service requirement for the most recent available school year. Previous applicants must re-apply each year.

To Apply
Institutions applying for recognition in the Interfaith Community Service category should describe how the institution’s service increased appreciative knowledge of religious and secular diversity among service organizers and participants. While the service component may address any community need, e.g. education, health, environment, in order to be considered in the Interfaith Service category, initiatives must also include one of the following:

- Communications initiatives that demonstrate an institution’s public commitment to fostering an inclusive interfaith environment.
- Education initiatives that cultivate knowledge of diverse religious and non-religious identities—positively impacting attitudes of differing practices and identities.
- Capacity building initiatives that provide students, faculty, and staff with the ability to cultivate positive religious and non-religious diversity within their own spheres of influence.

*Statistics from 2013
As with the other categories, applicants to the Interfaith Community Service category should highlight the qualitative impact that your service programs have had on the community in addition to quantitative data, such as the number of volunteers and the number of hours served.

Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school’s commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

The Award Levels

Of the institutions that are admitted to the Honor Roll, some receive “With Distinction” honors and four will be selected to receive the Presidential Award, the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

- The Presidential Awards will be presented to four institutions—one each in general community service, economic opportunity, education, and interfaith community service. These schools reflect the best practices in the specified category for community service and service-learning, including long-term campus-community partnerships and measurable community outcomes as a result of their service.

- The Presidential Award Finalists are so designated to the small group of institutions that are considered for, but do not receive the Presidential Award. These institutions demonstrate high standards of community service, measurable outcomes, and success within its specified service programs.

- The Honor Roll “With Distinction” recognition will be given to those applicants that display strong levels of institutional commitment, provide a compelling case for partnerships that produce measurable impact in the community, and have a Federal Work-Study community service percentage of 15 percent or above.

- The Honor Roll recognition will be given to institutions that demonstrate relevant and meaningful service and achieve measurable impacts in the community. Institutions participating in the Federal Work Study program must meet the statutory 7 percent minimum FWS community service requirement to be admitted to the Honor Roll.

President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge

The President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge is a parallel national initiative that was launched in 2011, based on recommendations from President Obama’s inaugural Faith Council. The Interfaith Challenge invites institutions of higher education to commit to a year of interfaith cooperation and community service programming on campus. Colleges and universities that apply for the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in the Interfaith Community Service category will be co-submitting to participate in the President’s Interfaith Challenge.

Submitting an Application

Applications must be submitted electronically via the online application system. To learn more and apply to be on the Honor Roll, visit: NationalService.gov/HonorRoll

You can also visit our Facebook page: Facebook.com/PresidentsHonorRoll

The deadline for the 2014 Honor Roll submissions is April 3, 2014.