

**Call for Nominations
2009 School of Public Health Community Service Award**

Deadline: 12:00 noon on Friday, April 10, 2009

Purpose

Public service and outreach are vitally important to the well-being of communities. The School of Public Health seeks to honor faculty who have performed public service activities above and beyond the normal expectations of university life, and which are of outstanding quality and benefit to the public. What is public service? A simple definition of service is “an act done for the benefit of another.” Community service or outreach refers to acts performed by faculty that primarily benefit members of the public.¹

The Award

Recipients' achievements will be commemorated with a plaque, a permanent display in the School's administrative offices, and a cash award of \$1,500. No more than one award will be given in any single year.

Eligibility

School faculty on 9-month, 12-month or adjunct appointments and have participated in the School annually during the past three years, are eligible. Previous recipients of the award are also eligible to be nominated in subsequent years for additional achievements.

Evaluation Criteria

An award for excellence in community service/outreach will be based on a specific action or set of actions undertaken by the faculty member that benefit the health and welfare of a community or population. Awards may be made for a single major contribution or for a sustained effort of community service activities over time.

- The action(s) should meet the description of community service/outreach above.
- The action(s) should involve substantial effort on the part of the faculty member and be based on his/her expertise.

Substantial effort implies that the services provided by the faculty member required considerable time spent researching or reviewing materials, preparing and delivering the services provided. The degree to which the faculty member provided leadership, and influenced the type and extent of services provided, is a measure of his/her expertise.

The level of involvement with the target group could also be considered, and might include: meeting with community representatives, obtaining broad input on the type of services and materials needed, consulting with affected parties in preparing the materials, delivering the final product, and evaluating its effect.

¹ For purposes of this award, certain activities are excluded from this definition: acts that benefit professional or scientific groups or agencies, and other acts that primarily advance the career of the individual faculty member.

Examples of the types of activities that may fall under community service/outreach include:

- Providing outstanding technical assistance to public or private agencies or groups that are involved with preparing public health educational or promotional materials; establishing rules and regulation designed to enhance the health of the public; organizing the delivery of public health services; or delivering public health services directly.
 - Directing community projects that are not primarily research in nature but provide significant public health benefits (education, health assistance, health care access, etc.) to the participants and the community.
 - Providing expert opinion(s) that directly influence(s) policy makers or the public's health: such as testifying before state or federal legislative bodies on matters directly relevant to public health; or serving as a major expert witness in a large legal case of public health importance.
- The actions should have substantial benefit to the health and welfare of a community or population.

"Substantial" implies that the services provided by the faculty member reached a large number of individuals and enhanced the health of a community or population.

Examples of how substantial benefits might be measured include:

- For technical assistance, benefit might be assessed by the numbers of individuals potentially affected and the magnitude of the health changes the faculty member helped bring about.
- For community projects, benefit might be assessed by the numbers of people reached, the type of assistance provided, and the magnitude of health changes the faculty member helped bring about.
- For expert opinions that bring about changes, benefit may be assessed by the inclusion of a faculty member's ideas into a bill, committee report, or appropriation, and by the estimated effects on public health those ideas may have. In the case of legal testimony, benefit might be assessed by the influence that the faculty member's testimony had on the outcome of the litigation, and the likely public health effects of the verdict.

Application Documentation

Applications for the award shall consist of:

- A letter of nomination to the SPH Recognition, Awards and Honors Committee of no more than three pages in length by a student, staff or faculty member of the SPH. The letter should advocate the case for the award and address how the faculty member's activities meet the evaluation criteria; and
- No more than four letters in support of the nomination of which at least two must be provided by members of the public directly affected by the faculty member's activities; and
- The nominee's vita and other material illustrating the public service achievement for which the candidate is nominated; and
- Nominator must indicate below (*initials*) whether or not all nominators grant permission to have excerpts of their letter read at the awards ceremony and are willing to have their letter forwarded to the candidate following the award ceremony.

initials

Permission Granted, by all Nominators, to share nomination letters at award ceremony and with candidate

Nomination Evaluation Process

Completed applications are due to the SPH Recognition, Awards and Honors Committee no later than **12:00 noon on Friday, April 10, 2009**. The Committee will evaluate nominations and may recommend an award.

To facilitate evaluation, please have one person act as primary nominator, compiling all of the letters of support and other material prior to submission to the Committee. Students acting as primary nominators are encouraged to discuss the nomination with the Division head or another faculty person for assistance in documenting service achievement. Nominators are encouraged to submit their documentation prior to the deadline to allow the Committee to review it for completeness.

Forwarding Nominations

Please forward **a complete original nomination packet and 8 copies** by **12:00 noon on Friday, April 10, 2009**, to:

Recognition, Awards and Honors Committee
c/o Stefannie Anderson
SPH Dean's Office, MMC 197, A302 Mayo Bldg.

Previous Recipients

2002 - Traci Toomey 2003 - Kathleen Call
2004-2008 No recipients