University of Minnesota Outstanding Community Service Awards

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Recognition Luncheon
12:10 to 1:30 p.m.

The Commons Hotel, Minneapolis
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Minnesota Outstanding Community Service Awards

Established in 1999, these awards honor University of Minnesota faculty, staff, students, and community partners who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the greater community by devoting their time and talent to make substantial, enduring contributions toward improving public life and the well-being of society.

Welcome
Presentation of Awards

   Associate Vice President for Public Engagement
   Andrew Furco

Preview of 2016 President’s Community-Engaged Scholar Award nominees

   School of Public Health Professor Kathleen Call
MARILYN BRUIN

Marinly Bruin has made a significant impact on families and individuals in the local and national community through her publicly-engaged teaching, research, and service focused on households at risk. Driven by a commitment to social justice, she understands that building partnerships is at the core of successful community engagement and the key in maintaining independent, stable, adequate, and affordable housing for all.

Bruin is well known in the community for her long-term partnerships with public, private, and non-profit housing providers. She has a distinguished record of successful engagement projects that include RentWise, a tenant education program designed to stabilize housing for low-income households by supporting first-time renters. She was also instrumental in organizing the 2007 Minnesota Affordable Housing Symposium and Smart House, Livable Community: Your Future, a ground-breaking exhibit and workshop series that explored the trend of aging in place.

Bruin has been recognized with the College of Design's Outstanding Outreach Award and University of Minnesota Extension's Dean and Director Award for Distinguished Diversity and Inclusion for projects that involve underserved communities, professional and academic agencies, partner organizations, and University students.
WOKIE FREEMAN

Staff Award

Wokie Freeman has dedicated most of her adult life to improving education and engagement in the greater Minnesota community. Instead of focusing on problems within the system, Freeman uses her insights as a University professional, native of Liberia, and parent to help other parents advocate for fair and equal access to educational tools for their children. Freeman also volunteers with African Career, Education and Resource, using innovative approaches to improve adult education and career opportunities. Her contributions to adult education have had countless positive impacts for black-owned businesses in the metropolitan area.

In addition, as director of operations and programs at the University’s Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), Freeman is often described as the “face of UROC.” She was recruited to the UROC team more than five years ago to help “build a space where the North Minneapolis community and the University could thrive together.” Recently, Freeman has overseen UROC’s Trauma Recovery Project, a multi-year, community-driven project that aims to create a roadmap for recovery from trauma for families and the community as a whole.
TANYA BAILEY

Student Award

A doctoral student in the University’s School of Social Work, Tanya Bailey has made her mark with innovative research and creative solutions to mental health problems. A licensed clinical social worker, Bailey has worked in the field of Animal-Assisted Interactions (AAI) for more than 23 years, providing wellness and learning programs for families, schools and human health organizations.

As a researcher, program developer, and principal AAI specialist with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Center for Spirituality and Healing, Bailey’s most well-known project—Pet Away Worry and Stress (PAWS)—has become a sought-after service on the University’s Twin Cities campus.

Developed by Bailey and coordinated by Boynton Health Service, more than 100 PAWS volunteers bring registered therapy animals, including her therapy chicken Woodstock, to the University’s Twin Cities campus on a weekly basis to reduce and manage stress for hundreds of students and faculty. Focused on well-being, AAI teams are volunteer handlers who are specially trained and evaluated, along with their animal partners. In addition to overseeing PAWS, Bailey continues to study how programs involving AAI can improve the health and mental health of young people, particularly college students.
TIMOTHY HOOGLAND

Community Partner Award

Tim Hoogland (aka Mr. History) is the state coordinator of History Day in Minnesota and director of education outreach services at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). During his 20 years overseeing History Day, annual statewide participation in the program has grown from 125 students to nearly 30,000.

Realizing the potential of a joint effort with the University, Hoogland leveraged a graduate assistantship, administrative resources from MNHS, and a partnership with University Libraries to rebuild the day as an alternative educational experience. Today more than 300 schools from around the state participate in History Day, which includes a scholarly curriculum and field trip to the Twin Cities campus.

Hoogland has also implemented a History Day-based undergraduate mentor program, which puts University students in K-12 classrooms. The program currently involves more than 75 mentors, many of them former History Day participants. His efforts have also built a successful scholarship program that improves students’ core academic skills while demonstrating the value of a college education.
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The Office for Public Engagement is a unit of the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Visit engagement.umn.edu.

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