Call for Nominations

2024 Richard E. Cone Award for Emerging Leaders in Community Engagement

Deadline for Receipt of Nominations:
No later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023

www.leadcalifornia.org
Dr. Richard E. Cone (simply and fondly called “Dick” by his colleagues) passed away on April 3, 2020. He was a leader in the national dialogue on experiential education, civic engagement and service-learning since the 1970s. He provided a guiding spirit and voice in the development and evolution of LEAD California (formerly California Campus Compact) since its beginnings more than 30 years ago.

For 25 years, Dick Cone directed the much-lauded Joint Educational Project (JEP) at the University of Southern California from which he retired in 2002. During his tenure at JEP, Dick Cone demonstrated extraordinary leadership, commitment and success in engaging the University of Southern California as a partner in meeting the needs of schools and communities adjoining the campus. In 2000, JEP was featured by Time magazine, which selected the University of Southern California as “College of the Year” because of the “remarkable bonds the university ... forged with local schools.” While Dick Cone’s focus was always on the benefits for students and communities in bringing communities and campuses in partnership with each other, recognition of his work through JEP informed a larger audience about engaged institutions and pedagogies for learning through service to communities.

Dick Cone has been praised by the University of Southern California as “a visionary whose leadership and dedication to public service have made it possible for tens of thousands of students to serve their communities and to put into practice concepts they learned in the classroom.”

In 1999, we presented Dick Cone with the first Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence & Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education. Since then, the award has been bestowed annually upon an individual who has made significant contributions to the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education and communities – partnerships through which student learning and the quality of life in communities are simultaneously improved.

*Since 2018, the award honors Dick Cone’s work to support and mentor emerging leaders in the field. We look forward to recognizing the contributions of newer professionals.*
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2024 Richard E. Cone Award for Emerging Leaders in Community Engagement

LEAD California is pleased to call for nominations for the 2024 Richard E. Cone Award for Emerging Leaders in Community Engagement.

The Richard E. Cone Award recognizes an exemplary early-career individual who is an emerging leader in the field of community engagement, whose work has had a positive impact on campus and in the community, and who is guided by the best practices of community-campus partnerships. It is the hope of LEAD California that this award will inspire all higher education institutions to consider ways to deepen their efforts to institutionalize and sustain authentic community-campus partnerships. As it often has been said, a community’s character is reflected in the people it selects to honor.

To see a list of past Cone Award recipients, please visit the LEAD California website.

“A university is what it rewards its people for being.” –James Joseph, Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Studies at Duke University, former Chair of the Corporation for National Service

Eligibility

Candidates for the Richard E. Cone Award must be nominated by a colleague. LEAD California urges all of its member institutions to identify an emerging leader on their campus whose work embodies the vision and value of community-campus partnerships. We also encourage candidates who are a good fit to consider asking a colleague or mentor to nominate them.

Candidates must:

(a) Be employees of 2023-2024 LEAD California member institutions
(b) Be in the early phase of their careers (3-10 years of experience in the higher education/civic engagement field)
(c) Demonstrate a positive impact on their campus and in the community
(d) Demonstrate leadership and strong future potential in the field

Selection Criteria

Candidates should demonstrate the following:

(a) Experience in cultivating high-quality community-campus partnerships. Such experience
may include creating or coordinating community-service projects, creating or maintaining multiple service-learning opportunities for students and/or nurturing the next generation of civic leaders. (Questions the nominators may wish to address include: What kinds of programs/projects has the nominee worked to build? How have they collaborated with others on campus and with community entities? How has the nominee built relationships with students? How have they nurtured and prepared the next generation of civic leaders?)

(b) Institutional impact. Evidence may include demonstrated leadership in promoting service-learning and community engagement on the nominee’s campus, fostering the practice of service-learning/civic engagement, or deepening campus/community engagement. (Questions nominators may wish to address include: How did the nominee gain support in the community and on the campus? Has this person helped cultivate other community-engagement leaders and advocates on campus? What structures has the nominee put in place to support campus-community engagement?)

(c) Community impact. Evidence may include new or long-term partnerships with community entities, significant contributions to building a community entity or campus department’s capacity to engage in partnership, or innovative or creative avenues for campus-community engagement. Documentation of this ability may include articles (newspaper, magazine or journal), community responses (letters of appreciation), media events and student endorsements and/or evaluations. (Questions nominators may wish to address include: How was the community impacted by the campus’s engagement? How were community agencies able to collaborate with the candidate in order to influence the direction of the partnership? How did the nominee’s work support the community entity’s ability to meet their mission?)

(d) Potential for growth in the field of service-learning and/or community engagement. Evidence may include the nominee’s demonstrated passion for and commitment to community engagement, or strengthening the field in California and throughout higher education more broadly (e.g., sharing best practices via participation in regional networks, fulfilling leadership and supportive roles in state-wide and national service-learning associations, participating in conferences and workshops, convening practitioners, writing and speaking in professional forums, and mentoring others).

Nomination Materials

LEAD California asks for your cooperation in meeting the nomination materials requirements so that nominations can be reviewed expeditiously. A compelling nomination will be comprised of materials that demonstrate evidence for each of the selection criteria.

Required nomination materials include:
1. A letter of nomination from a colleague on their home campus, addressing as many of the selection criteria as possible (not to exceed three pages).

2. A letter of support from a community partner, also addressing as many of the selection criteria as possible, with an endorsement of the candidate’s efforts to cultivate community-campus partnerships (not to exceed three pages).

3. A resume or curriculum vitae of the nominee (not to exceed ten pages).

OPTIONAL: Supplementary materials up to ten pages in length (single sided) may be submitted to support the nomination, including letters or testimonials from key stakeholders (e.g., students, campus administrators and deans, faculty and community partners), awards, news clippings, annual reports, summary of program impact (qualitative or quantitative data), pamphlets and journal articles. If the supplementary materials exceed ten pages in length, LEAD California reserves the right to select which ten pages out of the total to review. All nomination materials become the property of LEAD California and will not be returned.

- Please do not submit audiotapes or videotapes, display materials, films or scrapbooks, as LEAD California is not able to review them, and cannot guarantee that these materials will be returned.
- Please do not include links to digital audio recordings, video, or websites, as the selection committee will not be able to review them. If there is important information contained in those external digital sources, please summarize the content in the nomination materials.

Submission Options and Deadline

In the interest of helping to protect the environment please email ONE PDF file that includes all application materials (letters, CV and supplementary materials) to Piper McGinley (piper@leadcalifornia.org).

Nominations must be received by no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023. Any submissions received after 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023, will not be considered. LEAD California staff will confirm via email receipt of all submissions by no later than Tuesday, December 5th, 2023.

Announcement and Recognition of Award Recipient

The recipient of the 2024 Richard E. Cone Award will be notified by no later than the last week of January 2024. LEAD California will work with the recipient and his or her home institution to select a date and venue on the recipient’s home campus (or a zoom platform if preferred) at which to present the award and celebrate the achievements of the award recipient with his or
her nominators and supporters.

In recognition of his or her achievement and contribution to the field, the recipient of the 2024 Richard E. Cone Award will receive an honorary certificate and a $500 stipend. The recipient will also be matched with a prior Cone Award recipient for 2-3 conversations over the course of the year.

For More Information

For questions regarding the 2024 Richard E. Cone Award, please contact Piper McGinley at LEAD California by e-mail at piper@leadcalifornia.org. Additional copies of this Call for Nominations are available for download at https://leadcalifornia.org/richard-e-cone-award/.