
Nominate by May 3, 2019
Awards.UniversityEDA.org
Celebrate Your Organization’s Excellence!

Established in 1976, University Economic Development Association (UEDA) is the cornerstone membership organization representing public and private higher education, private sector, public agencies, and community economic development stakeholders. Each year, our members compete for our prestigious Awards of Excellence, which recognize outstanding, leading-edge higher education projects and initiatives promoting economic development and engagement. The Awards program reflects UEDA’s research on economic development and engagement in higher education.

UEDA’s Framework for Higher Education Engagement in Economic Development

In 2015, UEDA jointly published Higher Education Engagement in Economic Development: Foundations for Strategy and Practice with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities’ Commission on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Economic Prosperity (APLU-CICEP). This ground-breaking document sets forth a common definition for “university economic development and engagement,” a set of principles to guide economic development and engagement in higher education, and a taxonomy of programs to assist practitioners and higher education officials in understanding—and communicating—what constitutes the full spectrum of university-based economic development. For the full text of this document, which we strongly encourage all applicants to read, please see http://Foundations.UniversityEDA.org. This document will help you identify the appropriate category and classification of your initiative.

The UEDA Awards of Excellence categories reflect the Foundations taxonomy and the judging criteria and process align with the principles set forth in this strategic framework.
Awards Categories

In keeping with the Foundations’ emphasis on three core missions—Talent, Innovation, and Place—as well as the intersections of these missions, the 2019 Awards of Excellence categories are described below. For a more complete discussion of these categories, and a detailed list of the types of projects/initiatives that fit into these categories, see Higher Education Engagement in Economic Development: Foundations for Strategy and Practice at http://Foundations.UniversityEDA.org.

Once again in 2019, we have partnered with the Journal of Economic Development in Higher Education (JEDHE) to provide all Awards of Excellence nominees with the opportunity to expand the recognition and exposure of their work. All nominations for the Awards of Excellence program will also be shared with the JEDHE Editorial Board for consideration for an Editor’s Award in each category. Editor’s Award winners will have the opportunity for their initiative to be featured in a future JEDHE issue. For more information about the journal, visit http://JEDHE.UniversityEDA.org.

Talent

TALENT includes the spectrum of knowledge-transfer activities by which universities educate people, developing human capital for the 21st century Knowledge Economy. This category includes life-long learning, both degree and non-degree programs, experiential education and discovery-based learning programs, active alignment of curricula to industry needs, etc.

Talent + Innovation

Projects and initiatives that synergistically connect TALENT + INNOVATION, to create innovators of many kinds—business entrepreneurs, idea or product makers, and problem-solvers. Entrepreneurship education projects/initiatives and experiential learning projects/initiatives to connect students with entrepreneurs are just two examples of the types of projects/initiatives included in this category.

Talent + Place

Projects and initiatives that synergistically connect TALENT + PLACE in ways that enrich discourse, promote civic participation, and otherwise enhance quality of place. Just a few examples include K-12 school improvement partnerships; local government training institutes; and higher education involvement in regional government, economic development organizations, and community and wellness projects/initiatives.

Innovation

INNOVATION begins with basic research, but then builds on knowledge creation to encompass knowledge transfer and application in ways that are useful and relevant to society. This category encompasses basic research; applied, translational, problem-oriented, and industry-contracted R&D; cooperative extension services; technology transfer; etc.

Innovation + Place

Projects and initiatives that synergistically connect INNOVATION + PLACE, to create physical places that attract and build concentrations of talent and innovators—knowledge communities. This can be construed as either or both (1) a specific site, such as a university research and technology park, incubator, accelerator, etc., or (2) a larger community, area, or region, such as an innovation district.

Place

PLACE is defined as the many and diverse ways in which institutions contribute to making attractive, competitive communities—places where people want to live, create and take jobs, raise their families, participate in civic life, and age and retire. Competitive, successful communities and regions are attentive to the health, education, environment, housing, safety, and entertainment needs of community members. Campuses and sites like research parks are components of place-making, but the focus of this definition is broader, on communities, or even on regions.

Talent + Place

Projects and initiatives that synergistically connect TALENT + PLACE in ways that enrich discourse, promote civic participation, and otherwise enhance quality of place. Just a few examples include K-12 school improvement partnerships; local government training institutes; and higher education involvement in regional government, economic development organizations, and community and wellness projects/initiatives.

View the UEDA Knowledge Network Online

The UEDA Knowledge Network is a special section of the UEDA website dedicated to current and former Awards of Excellence finalists. Here you can learn the details of each finalist’s initiative, including their results and impact, as well as view their slide presentation from the year in which they were a finalist. Visit UniversityEDA.org/knowledge-network for more information on past finalists and how to submit your own nomination.
Nomination Details

**Deadline: May 3**

No Charge for UEDA members

$200 per entry for non-members

Applicants may nominate projects or initiatives that:

- Fit into one or more of the six UEDA Awards of Excellence categories described above; and

- Are already in the implementation phase and have demonstrable, quantitative results.

- Projects/initiatives that have been nominated in the past but did not win may be re-nominated, provided that the application clearly states how the project has evolved since the last submission. As an example, a project may have been less competitive in a prior awards cycle because it had demonstrated few results; however, the applicant might provide supplemental information describing recent project/initiative achievements, outlining new progress against meeting performance targets, and summarizing efforts to expand the project/initiative at satellite campuses.

- There is no limit on the number of projects/initiatives that a UEDA member may submit for awards consideration. However, under no circumstances should a UEDA member submit more than one application for a single project/initiative.

Non-members may also submit multiple nominations, but must include an application fee FOR EACH nomination they submit.

**Award Process**

UEDA has a unique two-stage judging process. First, individual members of our Awards of Excellence committee review and score each eligible nomination (1 point = poor, 10 = outstanding) based on the criteria described below. The committee then averages these scores and designates the highest scoring nominations (up to four) in each category as category finalists; however, any nomination that was incomplete, failed to fully address any of the judging criteria, or scored less than 5 on any judging criteria will be automatically excluded from consideration. Applicants should make every effort to nominate the project for the correct category. However, the UEDA Awards of Excellence Committee may choose to reassign an entry to another category to better reflect the initiative’s focus or impact and, if so, its decision will be final.

The committee will then invite these finalists to make a 15-minute presentation to their peers at the UEDA Annual Summit, followed by 5 minutes of Q&A with the audience and additional time for a panel discussion with all presenters at the end. At these sessions, which are organized by category (e.g. all finalists in the Talent category will present at a single session), each audience member who is not affiliated with a nominee presenting at the session is given a ballot and asked to rank the presentations based on an overall assessment of the project’s demonstration of the judging criteria. On the basis of this vote, the winners are selected and recognized at the Annual Summit’s Award Banquet. A representative of the winning applicant’s institution must be present to accept the Award.

Nominees attest to the value of this rigorous awards process. Several have reported that the audience feedback was invaluable and spurred them to make significant improvements to their project/initiative. Many welcome the chance to exchange ideas and best practices with fellow finalists. And UEDA serves as an active partner in promoting the finalists’ projects/initiatives—we promote the finalists’ projects/initiatives through our website, newsletter, Annual Summit, and other UEDA events and activities!
Judging Criteria

In both stages of the evaluation process, regardless of the award category, the following questions and criteria will be used:

- **Originality + Creativity (Weight: 25%)**
  Does the nominated project or initiative make a new and original contribution to its category? Does the initiative introduce an innovative way of thinking and doing? Is it a new type of project or initiative that can be used to expand UEDA’s new foundational taxonomy, or does it represent an important new innovation in the way a more established type of project/initiative operates, such as expanding to include non-traditional participants, offering new modes of service delivery, altering established incentive structures, or establishing new measurement and tracking systems? How unique are the project’s objectives, structure, approach, strategy, and results? How is it different from similar projects/initiatives?

- **Demonstration of Excellence in Leadership, Collaboration, and Strategic Partnerships (Weight: 15%)**
  Does the applicant clearly describe how relevant stakeholders were identified, consulted, and engaged in the project/initiative conception and implementation phase? Does the project demonstrate the institution's role as a leader and/or convener in developing and implementing a project/initiative that addresses a regional need? Did the project/initiative involve partnerships with regional economic developers, government, business, industry, non-profit, other institutions of higher education, and/or other relevant collaborators? were these partnerships clearly described in terms of the role of each partner, and did these partnerships increase the project/initiative’s size, scope, and/or impact?

- **Replicability, Scalability, + Sustainability (Weight: 15%)**
  Can the insights, tools, and best practices from the project/initiative be duplicated by other institutions in other regions? Can it be easily scaled up or down, and/or modified to reflect different regional or institutional contexts? Does the initiative have a business model that can sustain the initiative beyond its initial funding?

- **Overall (Weight: 20%)**
  The Overall criterion is a subjective opportunity for the judges and Summit participants to score the projects based on individual opinions. At the Summit, this criterion is based, at least in part, on the quality of the finalist’s presentation and the presenter’s responsiveness to questions.

- **Impact (Weight: 25%)**
  Does the applicant have a clear, logical plan to achieve their intended impact and to track progress towards achieving this impact? Does the applicant provide quantitative metrics that demonstrate that the project or initiative has had a significant economic development/engagement impact and achieved, at least partially, the intended results?

While the Awards of Excellence committee encourages applicants to provide qualitative information as well (e.g. testimonials, anecdotal evidence of impact such as the IPO of a company that graduated from its accelerator), all applicants MUST include quantitative measures and specify the time period over which they were achieved.

Although the committee will consider input and output metrics as well, it will give the greatest weight to impact metrics. Input metrics measure the amount or quality of resources used to produce outputs (e.g. R&D funding, new faculty hired in a particular discipline), while output metrics measure the results of activities undertaken using these inputs (e.g. new patents in nanotechnology, number of K-12 teachers trained in STEM experiential learning techniques, number of community members screened for diabetes for the first time). Impact metrics capture the extent to which these outputs actually yielded the desired impact (e.g. increase in new nanotechnology jobs in region, increase in students’ math and science standardized test scores after their teachers were trained in STEM teaching techniques, reduction in medical interventions as a result of diabetes complications at the university’s hospital).

(Note: When evaluating impact, the committee will take into account the intended size and scope of the project, the resources available for the project, the size and location of the institution implementing the project, and other factors that may affect the magnitude of results. For example, a relatively small business incubator at a small rural university might be expected to generate fewer jobs and spin-off companies than an incubator at a large research university. However, in all cases the committee is looking for a clearly articulated and well-conceived impact measurement plan and evidence that the intended results have been achieved or are on track to be achieved. Any project that is not in the implementation phase, or does not have any measurable results, will automatically receive a score of “1” for this criterion and be ineligible for finalist status.)
Nominate Your Initiatives Now!

There are just five simple steps:

1. **NOW**
   Choose your project(s) to nominate for an Award of Excellence.

2. **BY MARCH 28**
   Register for and attend the Awards of Excellence webinar.

3. **MAY 3**
   Submission Deadline. Submit your nomination form.

4. **JULY 1**
   Finalists notified.

5. **SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 2**
   Attend the 2019 UEDA Annual Summit in Reno-Tahoe.
   All Awards of Excellence finalists must attend the Summit to present their initiatives to those in attendance for judging.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding the awards process or program, please contact UEDA at 216.200.UEDA (8332), or via email at info@universityeda.org or frank.sottile@universityeda.org.
When the largest alpine lake collides with the Biggest Little City in the World, an incredible energy fills the air. It flows through the streets, slopes and swimming holes. It’s in the downtown clubs and the start-up distilleries.

Reno-Tahoe is the perfect cross between alpine and urban no matter if you spend your day venturing down gorgeous trails or downtown to do some shopping. Reno has an eclectic selection of restaurants, from classic Indian cuisine to staple American bar foods.

Reno offers its 245,000 citizens some of the world’s finest activities, such as the Reno-Tahoe International Film Festival, Tesla’s Gigafactory, the Nevada Opera, and much more. You will see parks and greenspaces brimming with art from the festivals over the years. All of this culture lends itself to Reno being a vibrant and youthful place to visit and enjoy. The city strikes the perfect balance between growth and history, always moving forward but paying tribute to the past.

One such tribute is the oldest college in the state—the University of Nevada, Reno. Founded in 1874 in Elko, Nevada as a political compromise it later became a Morrill Act Land Grant institution. Following a period of inactivity, the college was re-founded in Reno, Nevada in 1886.

Six construction projects for UNR will be completed over the next five years and will have a significant economic impact in the Reno Tahoe community and will create hundreds of construction jobs.

Learn more at Summit.UniversityEDA.org
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

TALENT + INNOVATION + PLACE

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