

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Outreach and Engagement

# AWARDS

March 12, 2026 | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center | Big Ten C



University Outreach  
and Engagement  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

*Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the university resides on land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize Michigan's 12 federally recognized Native Nations, historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. In offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences.*



A Michigan Agricultural College map from 1857 overlaid with a modern map of Michigan State University. The circled area indicates the location of the Native encampment in 1857.

# Program

## WELCOME REMARKS

Kwesi Brookins  
Vice Provost for University Outreach and Engagement

Kevin M. Guskiewicz  
President of Michigan State University

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

### **Spartan Volunteer Service Awards**

Trinity Amalraj, Lauren Bradford, Sumaiya Imad

### **2026 Graduate Student Awards for Community Engagement Scholarship**

Angelique B. Willis, Chenlu Jin, Jennifer Roedel, Rafael Lembi

### **2026 Graduate Student Award for Science Communication and Outreach**

Rachel Drobnak

### **2026 Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

Advancing Community-Engaged Economic Innovation: Regional Economic Innovation

### **2026 Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

Imagine a World Without Abuse: Advertising for Social Change

### **2026 Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

Building Capacity for Community-Led Survivor Services and Wraparound Care in Detroit Through Research-Practice Partnerships

### **2026 Distinguished Partnership Award for International Community-Engaged Scholarship**

Unveiling Ancient Yakthung Rhetorical Traditions: Matrilineal Civilizations and Mundhum Practices of the Himalayas

### **2026 Institutional Champion Award for Community Engagement Scholarship**

Andrea L. Wendling

### **Michigan State University Community Engagement Scholarship Lifetime Achievement Award**

Rodney T. Whitaker

## CLOSING REMARKS

Kwesi Brookins



# Spartan Volunteer Service Awards

A presidential recognition, the award celebrates MSU students' commitment to community-engaged learning and is given to students who volunteer 100 hours or more in one year.

*Remarks by James Hintz, Vice President for Student Affairs  
and*

*Introduced by Renee Miller Zientek, Executive Director  
Center for Community Engaged Learning*



# Recipients

Of the 154 students who received the Spartan Volunteer Service Award, three students volunteered over 950 hours during the 2024-2025 academic year and are being recognized today.

*Introduced by Kristopher C. Keyton, Assistant Director, Student Volunteer Programs, Center for Community Engaged Learning*

- **Trinity Amalraj**, Lyman Briggs College
- **Lauren Bradford**, College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Sumaiya Imad**, College of Social Science

*Donations are made to the following community organization of each student's choice: Helping Women Period, Tenant Resource Center, and Hope for HS – Detroit Chapter*



# 2026 Graduate Student Awards for Community Engagement Scholarship

Recognizing graduate and graduate professional students for  
outstanding community-engaged scholarship

*Introduced by Pero Dagbovie, Vice Provost for Graduate and  
Postdoctoral Studies and Dean of the Graduate School*

*This award is co-sponsored by The Graduate School.*



# 2026 Recipients

## *Community-Engaged Service and Practice*

**ANGELIQUE B. WILLIS**, College of Social Science

Any project worth doing starts with listening, keeps listening as it builds, and leaves behind tools people can use when the meeting is over. Angelique Willis' work with the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network (AWLN) Alumni Group reflects that philosophy. Alumni identified a community need: Many residents were uncertain about what "environmental justice" means and who to contact when harms occur. Willis, alumni, and community leaders co-developed a symposium, "Breaking the Cycle of Environmental Injustice: A Community Learning and Advocacy Event." Community leaders shared personal stories about what environmental justice looks like in their neighborhoods and how to report it. These findings now guide AWLN's community education and engagement activities.

## *Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning*

**CHENLU JIN**, College of Education

Seeking to better understand Chinese American communities, Chenlu Jin partnered with Spartan Chinese School (SCS), a nonprofit heritage language school. SCS offers Chinese language classes from Pre-K to AP Chinese. As a volunteer, she learned that the principal and parents shared a concern that children were losing interest in heritage language classes because traditional teaching methods felt disconnected from their everyday experiences. Together they co-designed 1) a curriculum that centered on play and culturally relevant learning and 2) a heritage language workshop for youth volunteers. Born and raised in China, Jin's personal encounters with linguistic bias and her research on heritage language have shaped her commitment to fostering multilingualism.

# 2026 Recipients

## *Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning*

**JENNIFER ROEDEL**, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

As part of the Bee Urban Growers (BUG) Project, Jennifer Roedel collaborated with community partners to educate urban farmers and gardeners in the Detroit and Lansing areas on pollinator management. Partners included Stefanie Steele of the Xerces Society, Detroit Butterfly Nursery, Detroit Hives, Detroit artist Joseph Ferraro, nonprofits, Extension professionals, and government agencies. Together they created teaching and learning materials for growers including educational resources, presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and social media campaigns. A pollinator management field day brought together community collaborators to lead workshops and poster presentations. In addition, Roedel was the lead author of a pocket guide on urban pollinators to support accessible science communication for broader audiences.

## *Community-Engaged Research*

**RAFAEL LEMBI**, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Energy insecurity is a critical challenge in the Brazilian Amazon, where 1 million people live with limited/no electricity. Indigenous, riverine, and other traditional communities are disproportionately affected, as many reside in remote areas. In response, community leaders, activists, and scholars have advocated for small-scale, decentralized solar energy systems. Rafael Lembi led community-engaged research on the uptake of photovoltaic systems in Indigenous and traditional communities along the lower Tapajós River. His work compares national, top-down solar programs with bottom-up, community-led projects, demonstrating how meaningful participation can advance just energy transitions. Participatory activities helped build a consensus around energy needs, amplifying community voices about energy justice and policy change in Brazil.



# 2026 Graduate Student Award for Science Communication and Outreach

Recognizing and honoring graduate and graduate  
professional students for excellence in science  
communication and outreach

*Introduced by Pero Dagbovie, Vice Provost for Graduate  
and Postdoctoral Studies and Dean of the Graduate School*

*This award is co-sponsored by The Graduate School.*





# 2026 Recipient

**RACHEL DROBNAK**, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Natural Science

Rachel Drobnak's first day working at a sweet cherry orchard in Leelanau County proved pivotal. That evening, she spread native prairie seed along a strip of land to help first-generation farmers convert that portion of their orchard into a prairie patch. The farmers had received free native seed and resources from MSU Extension and other agricultural outreach contacts. The experience inspired Drobnak to build a career in outreach and communication focusing on agricultural conservation. Her efforts have included developing an Extension bulletin to calculate the cost of prairie strip conversion, conducting an on-farm research project with Michigan farmers, presenting research at agricultural events, and communicating agricultural science to the broader public.



# Distinguished Partnership Awards

Recognizing highly engaged and scholarly  
community-based research, creative activity, teaching,  
and service collaborations, both in the United  
States and abroad, that positively impact both the  
community and scholarship

*Introduced by Kwesi Brookins  
Vice Provost for University Outreach and Engagement*



## Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service

# 2026 Recipient

### **ADVANCING COMMUNITY-ENGAGED ECONOMIC INNOVATION: REGIONAL ECONOMIC INNOVATION**

Jenay Jondy, University Outreach and Engagement  
Statewide Consultative Panel

*Introduced by Rebecca DeVooght, Vice President for Government Relations*

The enduring partnership between MSU Regional Economic Innovation (REI) and the Consultative Panel (CP) is rooted in mutual trust and reciprocity. Since 2011, this collaboration has functioned as a learning network through which university expertise and community knowledge are continuously exchanged, jointly interpreted, and strategically applied to address Michigan's most persistent economic development challenges. Thirty-four CPs, representing Economic Development Districts, state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, higher education institutions, entrepreneurs, and national partners, provide deep regional insight that guides REI's project selection, research questions, and implementation strategies in under-resourced communities. Their participation, alongside that of communities across the state, ensures that the issues studied each year emerge directly from community needs, whether related to workforce, access to capital, disinvestment, innovation ecosystems, or circular economy practices. Student-led/faculty-guided projects, co-learning plans, and innovation fellowship projects are reviewed and co-selected by REI staff and the CP, demonstrating shared governance and decision-making. Research is not conducted on communities but with them: Communities articulate their needs, help refine methodologies, and guide interpretation of findings. Findings are translated into publicly accessible reports, videos, podcasts, webinars, digital newsletters, and open-access publications. In this way, the REI CP partnership embodies MSU's land-grant mission by transforming community-engaged scholarship into actionable public value, strengthening Michigan's economic resilience and advancing equitable development statewide.

## Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching

# 2026 Recipient

### **IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT ABUSE: ADVERTISING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

Ross M. Chowles, College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center

*Introduced by Ebony Green, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Advising*

It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. A partnership between Ross Chowles and the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center (TBCAC) has demonstrated that arts can inspire students and community members to confront the enormous costs of child sexual abuse. This project catalyzes communities to accept that all adults are responsible for keeping all children from harm while working toward a world without abuse. TBCAC began working with Chowles in 2018, just after revelations surfaced about former MSU doctor Larry Nassar's sexual abuse of girls over almost two decades. Chowles challenged his Advanced Creative Advertising students to produce public service announcements to prevent child sexual abuse. Together Chowles and TBCAC developed a unique approach to this complex and taboo topic, educating MSU students, the Traverse Bay community, and professionals in the national child welfare field. Throughout the 8-year partnership, TBCAC has implemented student work in the Traverse Bay community. In 2024, the team mounted a powerful exhibit in MSU's Communication Arts and Sciences Building. Chowles and TBCAC have presented to state and national professionals, bringing broad attention to their arts-based approach to preventing child sexual abuse.

## Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research

# 2026 Recipient

### **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY-LED SURVIVOR SERVICES AND WRAPAROUND CARE IN DETROIT THROUGH RESEARCH- PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS**

Elena Ruíz, College of Arts and Letters

Sara's House/Place Detroit

Women Healing Eternally and Transforming (WHEAT)

*Introduced by Shashank Priya, Vice President for Research and Innovation*

The partnership between MSU's Research Institute for Structural Change (RISC) and the community-led victim service providers Women Healing Eternally and Transforming (WHEAT) and Sara's House seeks to address the overwhelming public health crisis of gender-based violence in Detroit. Using collaborative, reciprocal methods, the 4-year partnership advances the availability of public health research to nonprofit service providers and develops the capacities of all three organizations to improve culturally responsive care to the Detroit survivor community. RISC's engagement with the community began with a direct ask from Sara's House and WHEAT. The partnership addresses emerging needs and leverages MSU's resources as a land-grant university to access evidence-based data, technical support, and expertise. Thus far, the partnership has raised nearly \$400,000, which has been used for survivor-serving programming managed by WHEAT and Sara's House, as well as training public health advocates in community-based methods. The partnership has also generated leading-edge scholarship on community-led research methods, along with community-facing curricula in violence prevention and trauma-informed care. RISC has partnered with community leaders to enhance the availability of culturally specific direct services and wraparound care while generating knowledge that can be used to advance public health partnerships between universities and community organizers everywhere.

# Distinguished Partnership Award for International Community-Engaged Scholarship

## 2026 Recipient

### **UNVEILING ANCIENT YAKTHUNG RHETORICAL TRADITIONS: MATRILINEAL CIVILIZATIONS AND MUNDHUM PRACTICES OF THE HIMALAYAS**

Marohang Limbu, College of Arts and Letters

Himalayan Yakthung Cultural Studies

Ya-Phedangmas

Yakthung Cultural Leaders

*Introduced by Titus Awokuse, Vice Provost and Dean for International Studies  
and Programs*

Marohang Limbu's community-engaged scholarship focuses on revitalizing and sustaining the knowledge systems, oral traditions, and cultural practices of Himalayan Indigenous communities, particularly in Nepal, India, and Bhutan. Since 2014, Limbu, a Himalayan Indigenous scholar, has worked alongside Ya-Phedangmas (Mundhum ritual performers or shamans), Tumyahangs (learned men), Suhangmas (learned women), elders, historians, scholars, and community institutions. Grounded in a decolonial framework, this university-community partnership embeds scholarship in the co-research and co-documentation of Mundhum traditions, including ritual, ecological, and cosmological practices often marginalized in Western and mainstream discourses. This collaboration addresses urgent issues such as cultural erasure, linguistic decline, and ecological displacement. Rather than extracting knowledge, the research centers community agency by co-creating ethnographic records, multilingual digital archives, and multimodal publications in Yakthung, Nepali, and English. These collaborative outputs not only preserve endangered traditions but also provide culturally relevant educational resources. They amplify Himalayan Indigenous voices in both community and global contexts, ensuring accessibility, visibility, and intellectual sovereignty. This model of engaged scholarship transforms the university into a site of reciprocal learning and cultural healing. The work affirms the value of Himalayan Indigenous oral traditions while advancing MSU's land-grant mission to democratize knowledge, foster global and inclusive excellence, and create sustainable, justice-oriented partnerships.



# Institutional Champion Award for Community Engagement Scholarship

Recognizing and honoring individuals and groups for  
leadership in institutionalizing community-engaged scholarship  
and university outreach at Michigan State University

*Introduced by Kwesi Brookins  
Vice Provost for University Outreach and Engagement*



# 2026 Recipient

**ANDREA L. WENDLING**, College of Human Medicine

*Introduced by Teresa Mastin, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs*

Andrea Wendling, a physician and professor in the College of Human Medicine's Department of Family Medicine, is a nationally recognized leader in rural medicine. In 2012, she created the Leadership in Rural Medicine (LRM) Certificate Program, a partnership between MSU and communities across Michigan to help address the shortage of physicians in rural areas. The program recruits students interested in rural medicine and provides them with comprehensive, community-engaged training in rural areas throughout the state. Its goal is for students to develop the confidence, comfort, and professional and personal skills necessary to care for patients in rural and remote areas.

Wendling also developed the Rural Community Health Program (RCHP), which links MSU's Midland and Traverse City campuses to rural underserved regions of Michigan. RCHP students split their clinical training between their main campus and a single rural educational community.

To encourage students from rural areas to pursue medicine, she developed MSU's Rural Premedical Internship Program. The summer program offers shadowing experiences, rural community service opportunities, and application and interview skill-building. She has also been instrumental in developing the MSU-affiliated MIDOCS residency programs in underserved rural communities and the Indigenous Pathway Program with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Through these initiatives, Wendling has elevated the national reputation of MSU and built lasting community partnerships throughout the state. She continues to practice family medicine in Northern Michigan.



# Michigan State University Community Engagement Scholarship Lifetime Achievement Award

Recognizing individuals of outstanding sustained accomplishment in community-engaged scholarship through research, creative activity, teaching, and/or service and practice over the span of a career

*Introduced by Kwesi Brookins  
Vice Provost for University Outreach and Engagement*



# 2026 Recipient

## **RODNEY T. WHITAKER**

University Distinguished Professor of Jazz Bass  
College of Music

*Remarks by James Forger, Dean, College of Music; Gregg Hill, Composer; and Ken Jones, Chair, Advisory Board, Summer Solstice Jazz Festival*

For Rodney T. Whitaker, a world-renowned jazz artist, educator, and scholar, mentorship is at the heart of his life's work. "I had this vision about 20 years ago that I would raise 1,000 mentors in my lifetime," he has said. "And from that 1,000 they would raise their 1,000 and so on. Through jazz [we] can change the world." As an MSU faculty member for 29 years, Whitaker has brought that philosophy to MSU's College of Music and beyond. His emphasis on innovation, collaboration, and mentorship has enabled graduates to sustain successful music careers while enriching the music community worldwide.

A Mack Avenue recording artist from Detroit, Whitaker is one of the leading bass performers and teachers of the jazz double bass in the nation. He has toured the world, performing with symphony orchestras and artists such as Diana Krall; Crosby, Stills and Nash; and Dizzy Gillespie.

At MSU, Whitaker is director of jazz studies and a University Distinguished Professor of Jazz Bass. He has presented master classes, clinics, and workshops across Michigan, the United States, and Asia. He has served as a lead educator with Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Essentially Ellington program for high school jazz bands and music educators.

Whitaker has guided the MSU Community Music School-Detroit jazz education and its collaborations with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra youth ensembles and Detroit public schools. He has also served as artistic director of the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival. His most recent distinction was being elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2024.

# Past Award Recipients

## DISTINGUISHED PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

2025

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*An Academia-Industry-Government Partnership That Monitors and Predicts Outbreaks in the Tri-County Detroit Area*

Irene Xagorarakis, College of Engineering  
CDM Smith

Detroit Health Department

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

Great Lakes Water Authority

Macomb County Health Division

Oakland County Health Division

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*The Youth Voices Project*

Joanne E. Marciano, College of Education

Beth Herbel-Eisenmann, College of Education

Edgewood Village Housing Nonprofit

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Empowering Local Communities in Natural Resource Conservation Efforts Through the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program*

Bindu Bhakta, MSU Extension

Julie Crick, MSU Extension

Georgia Peterson, MSU Extension

City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation

Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority

Huron River Watershed Council

Legacy Land Conservancy

Michigan Nature Association

River Raisin Watershed Council

Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

The Stewardship Network Huron Arbor Cluster

Washtenaw Conservation District

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Washtenaw County Water Resources

University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Garden

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

2024

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Supporting Educators' Well-Being and Relationship-Based Practices in Early Childhood Programs*

Holly E. Brophy-Herb, College of Social Science  
Head Start for Kent County

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice*

Nancy DeJoy, College of Arts and Letters  
Capital City Film Festival  
Impression 5 Science Center  
Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center  
REACH Studio Art Center  
Refugee Development Center

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Making Better Veterinarians and Providing Services for Pets*

Donna L. Harris, College of Veterinary Medicine  
CSNIP (Community Spay/Neuter Initiative Partnership)

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*PFAS Research, Education, and Action for Community Health*

Courtney Carignan, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Veterinary Medicine  
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

**Distinguished Partner Award for International Community-Engaged Scholarship**

*Energy Convergence for Off-Grid Amazonian Communities*

Maria Claudia Lopez Perez, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Emilio Moran, College of Social Science  
Rachel Mourão, College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
Laboratory of Renewable Energy, Universidade Federal do Oeste Pará, Brazil

2023

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Engaging Community in the Development of Low-Cost Technologies for Environmental Monitoring to Promote Environmental Health Literacy in a Low-Trust Setting: The Community-Driven Flint Project*

Jennifer S. Carrera, College of Social Science  
Community Based Organization Partners  
Community Driven Flint Action Council

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*MSU and the Lansing School District: Building an Intergenerational Constellation of Partnerships with Latinx and Indigenous Lansing School District Youth and Families*

J. Estrella Torrez, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities  
Lansing School District

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Community-Engaged Learning: Bridging Medical Education and Community-Based Strategies to Leverage Health Sciences, Social Initiatives, and Evidence-Based Knowledge*

Carolina Restini, College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Chippewa High School Coalition for Youth and Families  
Chippewa Valley High School  
Dakota High School

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Caregiving, Aging, Research, and Education with AgeAlive and IMPART Alliance*

Clare C. Luz, College of Osteopathic Medicine  
City of East Lansing Prime Time Seniors Program

### **Distinguished Partner Award for International Community-Engaged Scholarship**

*Community Engagement with Pastoralists on the Tibetan Plateau*

Maria Lapinski, College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
John Kerr, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Rain Liu, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona  
Jinhua Zhao, College of Business, Cornell University  
Shan Shui Conservation Center

2022

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Advocacy and Other Community Tactics to Challenge Barriers to HIV Care for Gay and Bisexual Men and Transgender Women (Project ACT)*

Robin Lin Miller, College of Social Science  
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*Archivo de Respuestas Emergencias de Puerto Rico*

Christina Boyles, College of Arts and Letters

Operation Blessing

Comedores Sociales de Puerto Rico

El Puente - Latino Climate Action Network

Instituto Transdisciplinario de Investigación - Acción Social (ITIAS)

Universidad de Puerto Rico - Río Piedras

Universidad de Puerto Rico – Mayagüez

Digital Library of the Caribbean

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Bias Busters Faith-based Cultural Competence Guides: An Interfaith Publishing Alliance*

Joe Grimm, College of Communication Arts and Sciences

InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Critical Connections: Broadband Access, Student Learning Outcomes, and Community Development*

Johannes M. Bauer and Keith N. Hampton, College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Merit Network, Inc.

Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District

Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District

St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency

Washtenaw County, Michigan

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

2021

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Potter Park Zoo Animal Health Program: A Half-Century of Collaboration in Animal Health Education, Research, and Outreach*

Dalen W. Agnew, College of Veterinary Medicine

Potter Park Zoo

### **Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*Anti-Racist English Language Teaching and Scholarship*

April Baker-Bell, College of Arts and Letters

Denby High School

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Equine Welfare in Practice Clinical Clerkship for 3rd and 4th Year College of Veterinary Medicine Professional Students*

Harold C. Schott II, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
Universidad Veracruzana

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Racial Justice and the Administration of the Death Penalty*

Catherine M. Grosso and Barbara O'Brien, College of Law  
Center for Death Penalty Litigation

2020

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Menominee Sustainable Development Institute Partnership*

Kyle Powys Whyte, College of Arts and Letters and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Sustainable Development Institute, College of Menominee Nation

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*Sense-Ability Ensemble: Creating Innovative, Multi-Sensory, Interactive Theatrical Performance for Neurodiverse Audiences*

Dionne O'Dell, College of Arts and Letters  
4th Wall Theatre Company

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Teacher Leadership Development for Great Lakes Watershed Stewardship: The GRAND Learning Network and Annie's BIG Nature Lesson*

Shari L. Dann, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Annie's BIG Nature Lesson

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Spartan Project SEARCH*

Connie Sung and Marisa Fisher, College of Education  
Michigan Rehabilitation Services  
Ingham Intermediate School District

2019

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*MSU and INRB against Konzo Disease: A Global Partnership to Protect African Children from Toxic Food*

Michael J. Boivin, College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Community Engagement and Participatory Modeling of Urban Food Systems*

Laura Schmitt Olabisi, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
FoodPLUS | Detroit

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*The Resilient Monroe Green Map Initiative*

Kelly Salchow MacArthur, College of Arts and Letters  
River Raisin Institute, Monroe, Michigan

2018

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Helping National Guard Families After Deployment: A University-Military Collaboration*

Adrian J. Blow, College of Social Science  
Michigan Army National Guard

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*Indigistory*

Gordon D. Henry, College of Arts and Letters

John W. Norder, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Social Science

Christie M. Poitra, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Michigan History Center

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*Crain Michigan State University Detroit High School Journalism Program*

Jeremy W. Steele and Joy Visconti, College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Crain Communications, Inc.

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Improving Workforce Productivity at Peckham*  
Sriram Narayanan, Eli Broad College of Business  
Peckham, Inc.

2017

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research**

*Detroit Sexual Assault Kit Action Research Project*  
Rebecca Campbell, College of Social Science  
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office  
Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board  
Michigan State Police  
Wayne County SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners)

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity**

*Young Playwrights Festival*  
Robert J. Roznowski, College of Arts and Letters  
Williamston High School

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching**

*M/Place Partnership Initiative*  
Mark A. Wyckoff, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority  
Michigan Municipal League

**Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service**

*Building a Statewide Research Network Based on Community Engagement*  
Jeffrey W. Dwyer, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Human Medicine  
Mid-Michigan Health  
UP Health System-Marquette  
Munson Medical Center

**INSTITUTIONAL CHAMPION AWARD FOR  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

2025

Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health, College of Human Medicine

2023

Christopher P. Long, College of Arts and Letters and Honors College

2022

Stephen L. Esquith, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

**MSU COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

2025

Lorraine B. Robbins, College of Nursing

2024

Terrie E. Taylor, College of Osteopathic Medicine

2023

Susan J. Masten, College of Engineering

2022

Gordon Henry, Jr., College of Arts and Letters

2020

Hiram E. Fitzgerald, College of Social Science

2019

Carl S. Taylor, College of Social Science

2018

William S. Davidson II, College of Social Science

2017

Mildred A. Horodyski, College of Nursing

## **SYNERGY AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS\***

2017

Renee Leone, MSU Science Festival

2013

Joan Nelson, Allen Neighborhood Center

## **GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

2025

Patricia Guillante, College of Engineering

Jia Bin, College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Kara Haas, College of Education

2024

Farish Jazlan, College of Engineering

Taylor Elyse Mills, College of Arts and Letters

María Alejandra García Otero, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

2023

Chelsie Boodoo, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Engineering

Alexandra Lee, College of Education

2022

Sharieka Botex, College of Arts and Letters

Wilfredo Flores, College of Arts and Letters

Kayleigh Ward, College of Social Science

2021

Mary K. Kitzmiller, College of Social Science

\* Prior to 2017, the Synergy Award was called the Community Civic Engagement Award.

## **GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH**

2025

Alyssa Saunders, College of Natural Science

2024

Sheril Kirshenbaum, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

2023

Corinn Rutkoski, College of Natural Science

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD (CESA)\***

2025

Irene Xagorarakis, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
College of Engineering  
Community Partners in Detroit Tri-County

2024

Courtney Carignan, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition,  
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Department of  
Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network

2023

Maria Lapinski, Department of Communication, College of Communication Arts  
and Sciences  
Shan Shui Conservation Center

2022

Robin Lin Miller, Department of Psychology, College of Social Science  
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights

2021

April Baker-Bell, Department of English and Department of African American  
and African Studies, College of Arts and Letters  
Denby High School, Detroit Public Schools Community District

2020

Kyle Powys Whyte, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Letters and  
Department of Community Sustainability, College of Agriculture and Natural  
Resources  
Sustainable Development Institute, College of Menominee Nation

\* Prior to 2015, CESA was called the Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award.

2019

Michael J. Boivin, Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale

2018

Adrian J. Blow, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Social Science  
Michigan Army National Guard

2017

Rebecca Campbell, Department of Psychology, College of Social Science  
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office  
Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board  
Michigan State Police  
Wayne County SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners)

2016

Adesuwa B. Olomu, Department of Medicine, College of Human Medicine  
Ingham County Health Department

2015

Gail Richmond, Department of Teacher Education, College of Education  
Detroit Public Schools

2014

Dorinda Carter Andrews, Department of Teacher Education, College of Education  
East Lansing Public Schools

2013

Daniel R. Gould, Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, Department of Kinesiology, College of Education  
Think Detroit Police Athletic League

2012

Angela Calabrese Barton, Department of Teacher Education, College of Education  
Boys and Girls Club of Lansing

2011

Gretchen L. Birbeck, Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Department of Epidemiology, College of Human Medicine  
Chikankata Epilepsy Care Team

2010

Rachel Fisher, Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, College of Human Medicine

The Dream–M Project: Deafness Research Across Mid-Michigan

2009

Janet A. Swenson, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, College of Arts and Letters

Red Cedar Writing Project

Department of English Language and Literature, Central Michigan University  
Detroit Middle School

North Farmington High School

Perry Elementary School

Southfield-Lathrup High School

2008

Pamela Whitten, Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies, and Media, College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Marquette General Health System

2007

Randi Nevins Stanulis, Department of Teacher Education, College of Education  
Lansing School District

2006

Cris M. Sullivan, Department of Psychology, College of Social Science  
Turning Point, Inc.

## **W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

2011

*Improving the Lives of People with Epilepsy in Rural Zambia*

Gretchen L. Birbeck, Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology, College of Osteopathic Medicine

Department of Epidemiology, College of Human Medicine

Chikankata Epilepsy Care Team

2009

*The Adolescent Diversion Project*

William S. Davidson Jr., Department of Psychology, College of Social Science  
Ingham County Juvenile Court

Music during the Awards Ceremony is performed  
by MSU College of Music jazz students.



University Outreach  
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