

2017 MSU Outreach and Engagement Awards

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – MSU bestowed awards to faculty, staff, and their community partners during the 2017 Outreach and Engagement Awards Ceremony on February 21.

“Community-engaged scholarship is at the heart of our land-grant tradition, and is firmly embedded in our culture,” said President Lou Anna K. Simon. “The recipients honored provide outstanding examples of the work that can be accomplished with a community-engaged approach and a collaborative spirit.”

The awards program was established by University Outreach and Engagement to recognize highly engaged and scholarly community-based research, creative activity, teaching, and service collaborations that positively impact both the community and scholarship. The recognition also includes exemplary community leadership and lifetime achievements.

“MSU has the most extensive academic support structure designed to advance engaged scholarship in the nation. We emphasize university-community partnerships that are collaborative, participatory, transformative, and anchored in scholarship. The 2017 awards represent the best of those efforts,” said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, associate provost for University Outreach and Engagement.

Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Research

Recognition of a university-community partnership for significant, contextually-responsive, scholarly, and impactful collaboration in inquiry and the discovery of new knowledge and/or the development of new insights.

The Detroit Sexual Assault Kit Action Research Project

Rebecca Campbell, professor, 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)

After the 2009 discovery of approximately 11,000 unprocessed and untested sexual assault kits (SAKs) in a police property storage facility in Detroit, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy and Dr. Campbell and partners worked together for five years to understand why so many SAKs were not tested. They developed comprehensive testing plans to ensure that all rape kits were tested for DNA and created trauma-informed support programs for survivors as their cases were re-opened for investigation and prosecution. The strategies and solutions developed in this project have been disseminated nationally to help other communities. This partnership is also the recipient of MSU’s 2017 Community Engagement Scholarship Award.



**University
Outreach and
Engagement**

Office of the
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Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Creative Activity

Recognition of a university-community partnership for significant, contextually-responsive, scholarly, and impactful collaboration in the creation of new artistic or literary performances and expressions.

Young Playwrights Festival

Robert J. Roznowski, associate professor, College of Arts and Letters
Williamston High School

The Young Playwrights Festival (YPF) is a juried competition that offers mid-Michigan high school students the opportunity to submit an original short play for production. The plays are then performed twice before a live audience at Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, followed by a public reflection and assessment process. The program began 20 years ago and has developed deeply collaborative roots among the academic, professional, and community partners who participate in jurying, mentoring, producing, directing, and advising creative and talented young people. Since the program's inception 67 mid-Michigan high schools have participated, with students submitting 1,703 plays; more than 650 Department of Theatre students and staff have contributed their time and expertise.

Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Teaching

Recognition of a university-community partnership for significant, contextually-responsive, scholarly, and impactful collaboration in sharing knowledge with learners through either formal or informal arrangements, whether credit-bearing, noncredit, guided by a teacher, or self-directed.

Mlplace™ Partnership Initiative

Mark A. Wyckoff, professor, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Michigan Municipal League

The Mlplace™ Partnership initiative was created in response to the need to revitalize Michigan's downtowns. Through extensive placemaking training based on a new curriculum and guidebook, as well as technical assistance provided to stakeholder groups and communities across the state, the initiative has educated nearly 15,000 about the importance of placemaking and been instrumental in the planning and implementation of dozens of placemaking projects through Michigan.

Distinguished Partnership Award for Community-Engaged Service

Recognition of a university-community partnership for significant, contextually-responsive, scholarly, and impactful collaboration in the utilization of scholarly expertise to address specific issues identified by individuals, organizations, industries, or communities.

Building a Statewide Research Network Based on Community Engagement

Jeffrey W. Dwyer, professor, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and
College of Human Medicine; director, MSU Extension
Mid-Michigan Health
Munson Medical Center
UP Health System-Marquette

Dwyer has spent nearly a decade working with community partners to build a statewide research network affiliated with the campuses of MSU's College of Human Medicine. His goal is to align the expertise of health-focused professionals from the university with

communities in need. This statewide network is supporting community-engaged research and the development of collaborations. The team has collectively received funding from the National Institutes of Health and elsewhere for projects in the local community and has acquired more than \$500,000 in funding through community partnerships designed to address local health needs.

Synergy Award for Exemplary Community Leadership in University-Community Partnerships

Recognition of individuals from public, nonprofit, or private sector organizations, or from the community at large, for exemplary leadership in partnering with MSU faculty, staff, or students in community engagement activities.

Renee Leone, coordinator, MSU Science Festival

The first MSU Science Festival, held in April 2013, attracted more than 11,000 attendees across 10 days, offered more than 150 unique presentations in a variety of formats, and spanned the science spectrum from astronomy to zoology. With Leone's leadership, the Festival continues to develop each year, and has more than doubled attendance and now includes activities around the state. It is supported by a wide range of community businesses, local nonprofits, MSU units, and student volunteers.

Michigan State University Community Engagement Scholarship Lifetime Achievement Award

Recognition of outstanding and sustained accomplishment in community-engaged scholarship through research, creative activity, teaching, and/or service. Given the special nature of this distinction, it is not an annual award, but is conferred on those occasions in which the individuals' extraordinary accomplishments are sustained over the span of a career.

Mildred A. Horodynski, professor, College of Nursing

For more than 25 years, Mildred Horodynski has directed her research towards reducing the risk of childhood obesity. She and her colleagues have developed and implemented innovative, evidence-based, multi-faceted curricula that empower parents to utilize appropriate nutritional guidelines and feeding practices. Her research builds on learner strengths and community diversity. This asset-based orientation also helps to build trust. Other key success factors include ongoing process evaluation and using existing community networks rather than trying to invent new ones. A few small changes can, over time, have a tremendous impact on community health and childhood obesity.

Information about UOE awards can be found at <https://engage.msu.edu/awards>.

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