

## THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

### ***NOMINATION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS to be presented in Spring***

In recognition of the significant contribution of community partners to the successes of the students and UTC Graduate School programs, we aim to honor one or more site(s) or organization(s) that has/have demonstrated an outstanding relationship with one or more UTC graduate programs. Nominations will be reviewed by the Graduate School Awards Committee, an interdisciplinary selection committee composed of UTC faculty. The Award recipient (one per year) will be selected by the Dean of the Graduate School based upon recommendations of this committee. The Award recipient will receive a \$500 award from the Graduate School.

#### **The Nomination**

Organization / Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative / Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_

Awards may be given in each of the five partner impact categories below. Please select one category that best exemplifies the main impact that this partnership has had in your graduate program(s):

Nomination for partner impact on:

_____ Scholarship	_____ Education Excellence
_____ Innovation and Creativity	_____ Leadership and Advocacy
_____ Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging	

#### **Narrative**

As you consider nomination, please reflect on how the community partner has impacted one of the categories below (for which they are being nominated). Submit a brief narrative (limited to 500 words) that summarizes why this community partner is deserving of recognition. This nomination form and narrative are due to Ethan Carver in the Graduate School by February 15. Nominees who have received an Outstanding Community Partner Award within the last 5 years are not eligible.

When completing your narrative, consider the scoring rubric shown.

- Impact on Scholarship
  - Contribution to the advancement of scholarship and research through collaborative efforts
  - Support for graduate students in research projects or other scholarly activities
  - Collaboration for student engagement in the field providing opportunities for students to apply evidence-based practice
- Excellence in Education
  - Active participation in educational programs and/or initiatives
  - Development of educational resources, mentorship programs, or workshops for graduate students
  - Provision of excellent learning opportunities under the supervision or guidance of skilled professionals
- Innovation and Creativity
  - Introduction of innovative approaches or ideas that have positively influenced any particular graduate program's initiatives

- Creativity in problem-solving and addressing challenges within the partnership
- Leadership and Advocacy
  - Contributions to the broader community that align with the Graduate School's mission and values
  - Advocacy efforts in promoting the mission and vision of the Graduate School
    - The mission of The Graduate School is to provide rigorous advanced instruction, applied research opportunities, financial support, and other support services for graduate students. The Graduate School upholds high program and academic standards in serving the needs of the region, state, and nation. The Graduate School also takes into account the increasing availability of information and the resultant creation of knowledge made possible by advances in technology.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging
  - Demonstration of a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the workplace through actionable initiatives to address disparities

Scoring Rubric (to be completed by members of the Awards committee)

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Significance	The community partner, through collaborative efforts with a graduate school program, contributes to the impact category in a way that is marked by <b>transformative significance</b> and improvement for graduate students or programs at UTC.	The community partner, through collaborative efforts with a graduate school program, contributes to the impact category in a way that is marked by <b>substantial significance</b> and improvement for graduate students or programs at UTC.	The community partner, through collaborative efforts with a graduate school program, contributes to the impact category in a way that is marked by <b>moderate significance</b> and improvement for graduate students or programs at UTC.	The community partner, through collaborative efforts with a graduate school program, contributes to the impact category in a way that is marked by <b>limited significance</b> and improvement for graduate students or programs at UTC.
Excellence	The community partnership is of the <b>highest quality</b> in its design, execution / delivery, and evaluation.	The community partnership is <b>well thought out</b> in its design, execution / delivery, and evaluation.	The community partnership is <b>basic in its design</b> , execution / delivery, and evaluation.	The community partnership is <b>limited in its design</b> , execution / delivery, and evaluation.
Improvement	There is a <b>demonstrated commitment</b> to	There is <b>consideration</b> given for continued improvement.	Factors are built in that <b>could contribute</b> to continued improvement.	There is <b>limited demonstrated commitment</b> to

	continued improvement.			continued improvement.
Nature of the Partnership	<p>The partnership demonstrates a <b>high level of collaboration</b> between the organization and the graduate program, with shared decision-making, resources, and responsibilities.</p> <p>Both parties actively engage in dialogue, contribute expertise, and work together to achieve common goals. The partnership is characterized by mutual respect, trust, and transparency, leading to sustained positive outcomes for the broader community.</p>	<p>The partnership involves <b>active engagement</b> between the organization and the graduate program, with efforts to involve community members in decision-making processes and activities.</p> <p>The partnership demonstrates a commitment to listening to community needs and incorporating feedback into planning and implementation.</p>	<p>The partnership <b>provides support</b> from the organization to the graduate program, such as funding, resources, or services, based on identified needs.</p> <p>There are limited opportunities for meaningful collaboration or co-design.</p>	<p>The partnership is <b>transactional in nature</b>, with limited engagement beyond basic exchanges of goods, services, or funding.</p> <p>The organization may provide support to the graduate program without meaningful involvement or input.</p>
Sustained Commitment	The organization has shown a partnership with the graduate program as demonstrated by the <b>sustained nature</b> of the collaboration (5 or more years).	The organization has shown partnership with the graduate program as demonstrated by the <b>ongoing nature</b> of the collaboration (3-4 years).	The organization has shown partnership with the graduate program as demonstrated by the <b>continued nature</b> of the collaboration (2 years).	The organization has shown partnership with the graduate program as demonstrated by the <b>initial nature</b> of the collaboration (1 year).