The John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leadership in Civic Engagement

Given in recognition of exemplary early-career leaders who are advancing the wider civic engagement movement through higher education to build a broader public culture of democracy.

In an effort to recognize, support and encourage the next generation of leaders in the civic engagement movement, the American Democracy Project established the John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leaders in Civic Engagement. The award was named in John Saltmarsh’s honor to recognize a long-standing passion of his: cultivating and preparing the next generation of civic leaders to sustain and advance the civic engagement movement.

Civic engagement involves a process of collaboration and reciprocity and a purpose of creating partnerships of university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

About the Award

George Mehaffy, reflecting on the choice of John Saltmarsh as the person for whom the award was named, commented: “John Saltmarsh was the obvious choice for whom we would honor in creating this award. John is a great visionary and an inspiring leader. Even more importantly, he has never wavered from a commitment to nurturing the next generation of civic leaders. His consistent question echoes in my mind: ‘Who will do this work when we are gone?’”

John Saltmarsh is the Co-Director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, as well as a faculty member in the Higher Education Administration Doctoral Program in the Department of Leadership in Education in the College of Education and Human Development. He is the author, with Matthew Hartley, of the edited volume, “To Serve a Larger Purpose:” Engagement for Democracy and the Transformation of Higher Education (Temple University Press, 2011) and, with Edward Zlotkowski, of Higher Education and Democracy: Essays on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (Temple, 2011).

The Award

The Saltmarsh Award is presented annually to an emerging leader in the civic engagement field from an AASCU institution or ADP Partner. The Award recipient will receive a commemorative to acknowledge the national recognition and a check for $500. The Award recipient will be announced each year at the annual meeting of the American Democracy Project in June.

In order to provide support for the Award in the future, the royalties from the book edited by John Saltmarsh and Matthew Hartley—“To Serve a Larger Purpose:” Engagement for Democracy and the Transformation of Higher Education (Temple University Press, 2011)—are being donated in full to the award. We urge you to consider purchasing the book, not only for its content but also because your purchase will help ensure the sustainability of the award. You can order the book through the Temple University Press website: http://www.temple.edu/tempress/titles/2133_reg.html.
A special thank you to William Plater, the executive vice chancellor and dean of the faculties emeritus at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, who has generously supported the first two years of the award.

Previous Recipients
2014—Bethany Fleck, assistant professor of psychology, Metropolitan State University of Denver (Colo.).

2013—Brandon Kliewer, assistant professor of civic engagement and ADP campus coordinator, Florida Gulf Coast University.

2012—Emily Janke, special assistant for community engagement, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Paul Markham, assistant professor and co-director at the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility, Western Kentucky University.

2011—Cecilia M. Orphan, national project manager, American Democracy Project.

Eligibility
Nominees should meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an academic professional working in higher education.
- Be in the early phase of their academic career.
- Be a faculty member, staff member, administrator or graduate student on an AASCU campus, across a group of AASCU campuses or in an ADP partner organization.

Nominees should also:

- Demonstrate leadership, or possess extraordinary potential for future leadership, in building the wider civic engagement movement.
- Demonstrate a passion for advancing the civic learning of undergraduates.
- Demonstrate collaborative leadership.
- Practice mentoring of others and commitment to mentoring new leaders.
- Act as an organizational catalyst to change higher education and to model leadership for change.
- Make an intellectual contribution to the development of the field and the movement.

Nomination and Selection Process
Emerging Leaders may be nominated by anyone. The nomination consists of the following: a completed nomination form, a vitae or resume no longer than five (5) pages; and no more than five (5) additional pages of documentation in the form of a description of the nominee’s achievements, supporting letters, etc. All nomination materials should be collected and emailed as a .pdf file.

Materials must be submitted electronically no later than Monday, April 13, 2015.

The Recipient is expected to:

- Attend the American Democracy Project annual meeting to receive their award (June 4–6, 2015 in New Orleans (La.).
- Present a session at the American Democracy Project annual meeting.
- Submit original work or a written piece on leadership for engagement to the eJournal of Public Affairs.

Materials should be emailed to: Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, National Manager, American Democracy Project, American Association of State Colleges and Universities at domagalj@aascu.org.

AASCU’s American Democracy Project will oversee the selection process. A three-person review committee will be appointed, normally consisting of past award winners, to recommend the awardee. For further information about the award, contact Jennifer Domagal-Goldman at AASCU: 202.478.7833 or domagalj@aascu.org.