

Engagement Scholarship Consortium Announces Naming of the Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award

For Immediate Release

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HARRISONBURG, Virginia — The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) has announced the naming of the Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award after Hiram “Hi” Fitzgerald, former ESC president and University Distinguished Professor at Michigan State University. Fitzgerald served as president of ESC from 2013–2015 and its predecessor, the National Outreach Scholarship Conference, from 2009–2012.

ESC — composed of 39 higher education institutions in the United States and abroad — is the premier resource for higher education and community partners focused on promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship locally and globally.

During his career, Fitzgerald led the Consortium through a period of significant growth and change, helping to strengthen university-community partnerships and increase the recognition of and respect for community-engaged research and practice with the public and within higher education.

Current ESC Board President Samory T. Pruitt, vice president for community affairs at The University of Alabama, praised Fitzgerald’s contributions to the Consortium and his national prominence as a leader in engaged scholarship. “Hi’s dynamic leadership of ESC and his own outstanding research in this growing field have raised the bar for community-engaged scholarship internationally, bringing it to the

forefront of academic attention. It is fitting that Hi is being recognized in this way by the organization that he helped build and led for so many years.”

ESC supports and encourages excellence in engaged scholarship through its award and recognition programs. The ESC Excellence Awards Program recognizes higher education institutions and their exemplary contributions to the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship.

ESC will present the inaugural Hiram “Hi” Fitzgerald Distinguished Engaged Scholar award during the 2019 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. A key priority of ESC 20/20 – Vision. Focus. Impact., the Excellence Awards Program provides recognition in five categories: Student, Faculty, Community Partner, Distinguished Engaged Scholar, and Institutional Leadership. All higher education institutions (two- and four-year, public and private) are eligible to submit nominations. Nominations for the 2019 Excellence Awards Program will be accepted from January 7, 2019 – March 1, 2019. Additional information is available at <https://engagementscholarship.org/>.

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