

Engagement Scholarship Consortium Announces Recipients of Excellence Awards

For Immediate Release

September 7, 2026

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) announces the recipients of its 2026 Excellence Awards Program. The awards program recognizes faculty, staff, students, and higher education institutions and their exemplary contributions to scholarship and the practice of community-engaged scholarship. First conferred in 2018, awards are presented in several categories. Nominations are sought annually from 2- and 4-year public and private higher education institutions and are evaluated by a distinguished panel of scholars.

2026 ESC Excellence Award recipients are:

- **Excellence in Community Partner Engagement Award**
River Valley Health (partner of University of Tennessee)
Research and Education Aligned for Clinical and Community Health
- **Excellence in Faculty Community Engagement Award**
Nordica MacCarty, Oregon State University
Aprovecho Research Center
- **Excellence in Outreach and Engagement Professional Community Engagement Award**
Community Engaged Research and Analysis Team, University of Virginia
- **Excellence in Student Community Engagement Award**
Kamille Simon, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
23/54 Project
- **Distinguished Dissertation Award**
Yingying Han, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Community Archives as Agency: Documenting Chinese American Experiences in the U.S.
- **Hiram E. Fitzgerald Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award**
Lynn Blanchard
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

ESC President Laurie A. Van Egeren, vice provost for public engagement at the University of Minnesota, underscored the importance of the highly competitive awards programs. "ESC is honored to recognize the critical work that scholars engage in with community partners. These awardees are model university-community partnerships that highlight the importance of research, teaching, and practice situated in the real world that makes meaningful impacts for society." said Van Egeren.

In 2026, the ESC will hold its Awards and Recognition Ceremony during the ESC Annual Conference (October 7-8, 2026). For more information about the 2026 ESC Conference, including registration, visit the [ESC website](#).

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is the premier resource for higher education institutions and their faculty, staff, students, and community partners focused on promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship locally and globally.

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