

GCEC Award Nominations

General Information

The GCEC awards are designed to showcase and celebrate the very best of university entrepreneurship! We are excited to read about the great achievements of university entrepreneurship programs and proud to recognize them. A few things you should know before preparing nominations:

- **Nominations must be received by midnight Friday, July 15, 2016 to be considered.**
- **For questions, please contact one of the following:**
 - **Elana Fine, Chair of the GCEC Awards Committee**
Managing Director, Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship
Email: efine@rhsmith.umd.edu
 - **Mary Lynn Fernau**
Marketing Director, Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship
Email: mlfernau@rice.edu
- Awards can be submitted in the following eight categories:
 1. Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center
 2. Outstanding Contributions to Venture Creation
 3. Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship Across Disciplines
 4. Exceptional Contributions in Entrepreneurship Research
 5. Excellence in Specialty Entrepreneurship Education
 6. Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation
 7. Outstanding Student Engagement & Leadership
 8. NASDAQ Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence
- Awards are selected by a committee of judges, comprised primarily of past winners.

Submission Information

- Nomination is limited to 3 pages (PLUS, a cover page with contact information), and should be submitted as a single PDF document. An Appendix and/or Supplemental information (maximum 10 pages) should be provided and must be appended to the 3-page Nomination, and sent as a single PDF file. The total PDF file should be no more than 14 pages (cover page, 3-page nomination, and 10-page appendix) and no more than 10MB.
- One exception is the NASDAQ Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence Award. The nomination can be up to 5 pages (plus cover page and 10-page appendix). The total page count maximum for the NASDAQ application with appendix is 16 pages and 10MB in size.

GCEC Award Nomination Information (Continued)

Cover page should include:

- Name of University
 - Name of Entrepreneurship Center
 - Award Category of the Nomination
 - Center Director name with contact information (including phone and email)
 - Person submitting the award (if different) with contact information (including phone and email)
-
- Center Directors should submit nominations for the category that they believe best fits their Center's accomplishments. It is a Center Director's responsibility to evaluate the category that can best be articulated in terms of their Center's focus, achievements, and purpose. A university may apply for awards in multiple categories, if they believe they have strengths in multiple categories.
 - Awards in each category will be made to the centers that demonstrate exceptional achievement within the category. There will **NOT** be a minimum or maximum number of awards in each category. It is at the judges' discretion.
 - Awards will be announced and presented at the annual GCEC Conference. A representative from each nominated university must be present to accept the award.
 - Any award winning school will not be eligible the following year to submit for an award in the same category. (Moreover it is unlikely that a school would ever be considered to win the same category twice unless there are extenuating circumstances.) In addition, winning schools may be asked to have a representative on the Award Judging Committee to evaluate nominations the following year.

Preparing the Nomination

We want you to tell us what makes your center shine! The following guidelines are designed to facilitate a fair and simple basis for nominations, review, and award selections.

- Identify the specific category for which the center is nominated. Identify the center and institution names and contact information for the center director and for the individual submitting on behalf of the center. Unfortunately, if the category is not clearly identified, the nomination will not be considered.
- In all responses, please clearly indicate the **center's role** in highlighted activities, and/or specific relationship to the center of individuals, programs, or activities that are highlighted.
- Be sure to address **each item** in the nomination criteria, even if the answer is N/A. Once these specific items have been addressed, you may add information that you think is relevant, however it must clearly tie to the category in order to be considered. **This should be done in no more than 3 pages!**

- Appendix –
 - Many Award Categories have suggested or required appendix materials. The appendix is limited to 10 pages, including the suggested materials according to the Award Category.
 - The appendix should be appended to the 3-page Nomination and submitted as a single PDF document, together with the 3-page nomination. The maximum combined file size is 10MB.
 - If you choose to submit optional information in the appendix we recommend that you include examples of programs or initiatives or courses that visually capture what you have described in your 3-page nomination. You may include PDF's of marketing materials, fact sheets, collateral, brochures, PowerPoint files, flyers, testimonials, photographs, or other information that supports your nomination. Do NOT simply use the appendix to include additional text about your program.
 - Also, when including supporting materials, please be sure to **clearly** indicate how the items relate specifically to the award category. In other words, please submit only those that specifically tie to the category and criteria. Ad hoc materials that do not specifically tie to criteria requests will be excluded from evaluation, and will negatively impact the evaluation.

Judging Criteria - General

- Awards are selected by a committee of judges, comprised primarily of past winners.
- The nomination should address each of the criteria listed for that specific award. Nominations that do not address each item may be disqualified. The criteria for each award are listed in the pages that follow.
- Judges will be asked to evaluate each nomination based on the specific criteria. Judges will score each item on a 5-point scale, with 5 being exceptional.

Submitting the Nomination

- All nomination material is limited to 10MB, one combined PDF file, and should be e-mailed to Mary Lynn Fernau at mlfernau@rice.edu. If you have questions, please contact Mary Lynn Fernau, Marketing Director for the Rice Alliance, at 713-348-5374 or mlfernau@rice.edu. We will send a confirmation email to let you know that we have received your application.

GCEC Award Judging Criteria

Applicants should structure their application with sections that address the criteria listed below, plus the appendix. Applications are judged on a scale of 1 to 5 for each of the criteria listed.

1. Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center

This award honors an entrepreneurship center that is 5 years old or less, and have a clearly defined target audience and purpose. Clearly state the purpose and goals of the center and include target audience.

1. Briefly discuss the rationale for creating this entrepreneurship center to include how stakeholder interest and support were gathered.
2. Provide a graphical timeline depicting major milestones for the development of the center from conception to current year.
3. Provide a list of specific achievements to date with a brief explanation.
4. Appendix:
 - Provide a center organizational chart to include faculty, staff, other personnel, and strategic partners.
 - Include up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of your emerging center.

2. Outstanding Contributions to Venture Creation

This award honors a center that creatively supports the process of launching and accelerating university-affiliated startups through 1) competitions, 2) incubators, 3) accelerators, or 4) other programs.

Application Criteria:

1. Clearly state the purpose and goals of the program and include target audience.
2. Describe how the venture acceleration programs work.
3. Provide a list of outcomes achieved from efforts in any of the 3 types of activities (competitions, incubators, accelerators) to include:
 - Number of participants
 - Number and amount of awards
 - Number of startups generated
4. Appendix:
 - Provide up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of your venture acceleration effort.

3. Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship Across Disciplines

This award honors a center dedicated to creating, advancing, and enabling entrepreneurship education opportunities to multiple audiences across campus.

Application Criteria:

1. Clearly state the purpose and goals of the center and include target audience.
2. Briefly discuss the rationale for creating this entrepreneurship center to include how stakeholder interest and support were gathered.
3. Provide a graphical timeline depicting major milestones for the development of the center from conception to current year.
4. Provide a list of specific achievements to date with a brief explanation.
5. Appendix:
 - Provide a center organizational chart to include faculty, staff, other personnel, and strategic partners.
 - Include up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of your interdisciplinary program.

4. Exceptional Contributions in Entrepreneurship Research

This award honors a center that is dedicated solely or as part of their overall mission to supporting the creation of new entrepreneurship knowledge through research that advances the discipline.

Application Criteria

1. Clearly state the purpose and goals of your center relative to research (your research agenda) and include what differentiates your program from others doing research.
2. Briefly describe how your center supports research that advances the discipline and include how stakeholder interest and support were gathered for the effort. This may include such things as publications, journal management, academic conference management, and grants.
3. Provide a list of specific achievements (publications, awards, etc.) to date with a brief explanation.
4. Appendix:
 - Provide a center organizational chart depicting the relationship of research to other center activities.
 - Provide up to two (2) other items of your choice that best reflect the goals of research effort.

5. Excellence in Specialty Entrepreneurship Education

This award honors a center dedicated to a specific area of focus in entrepreneurship education, such as technology/knowledge transfer, social entrepreneurship, women in entrepreneurship, etc.

Application Criteria

1. Clearly state the target audience for your specialty program and the genesis of the program.
2. Outline the program including expected outcomes, participants and partners.
3. Identify some of the unique characteristics of this program compared to your peers & discuss how other schools could replicate this program to serve specialty audiences.
4. Provide a list of specific achievements to date with a brief explanation.
5. Appendix:
 - Provide up to two (2) items of your choice that best reflect the goals and outcomes of your specialty entrepreneurship program.

6. Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation

This award honors a center that has developed a significant original innovation in entrepreneurship pedagogy.

Application Criteria

1. Clearly describe the pedagogical innovation your center has developed.
2. Briefly discuss the rationale for creating this original innovation to include how stakeholder interest and support were gathered.
3. Provide examples for how this innovation is being used at your center and perhaps elsewhere.
4. Appendix:
 - Provide up to two (2) other items of your choice that demonstrate the innovativeness of your pedagogical approach.

7. Outstanding Student Engagement & Leadership

This award honors a center that amplifies their impact by achieving high levels of student engagement and student leadership in its entrepreneurship programs.

Application Criteria

1. Discuss the various programs or initiatives your Center supports to engage a broad spectrum of students to achieve the Center's goals? How do you empower students to lead or own these efforts?

2. Highlight 1-2 specific efforts that demonstrate student leadership in your Center. What initiatives did your Center execute that would not have happened without student leadership or participation?
3. What metrics do you use to measure success? How do you benchmark these efforts vs. other co-curricular activities on your campus?
4. Appendix:
 - Provide up to two (2) items of your choice that best illustrate these initiatives

8. NASDAQ Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence

The NASDAQ Center of Entrepreneurial Excellence award represents the highest honor that a University Entrepreneurship Center can receive. This special award was created by NASDAQ in association with the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers for the purpose of recognizing the unique achievements and outstanding efforts of entrepreneurship centers across the world.

The NASDAQ award honors those centers that have made and will continue to make enormous contributions in advancing entrepreneurship as the force in economic growth throughout the world. The honor is bestowed upon entrepreneurship centers that have made remarkable advancements in the entrepreneurial field in the following areas: entrepreneurship research, outreach to emerging ventures, entrepreneurship curriculum, community collaborations, special projects, and overall prestige and recognition in the entrepreneurship field.

Application Criteria:

1. National prestige of the Entrepreneurship Program/Center (national rankings or other recognition).
2. National/State recognition achieved (awards, achievements, recognition from other outside organization - e.g. U.S. Association for Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Academy of Management).
3. Entrepreneurship Program Quality and longevity of the program (Ph.D., MBA, BS).
4. Entrepreneurship curriculum development (courses specifically designed for major/minor programs).
5. Contributions to Entrepreneurship Research (Publications/Books/Etc).
6. Outreach activities (significance & uniqueness to the Entrepreneurship Center).
7. Community collaborations (specific to the Entrepreneurship Center).
8. Special projects or accomplishments (unique to the particular center).
9. University/Community commitment to the Entrepreneurship Center in terms of endowment, space, and presence.
10. Commitment to the GCEC.
11. Appendix: Optional - Up to 10 pages of collateral and/or supporting information (non-text).

Note: Due to the greater number of criteria for the NASDAQ award, the nominee can submit up to 5 pages (vs. 3), plus a cover page, for their nomination, plus an optional appendix of up to 10 pages.