

ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation

General Information

The American Council on Education/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation recognizes a college or university which, in a period of great change in higher education, has responded to challenges in innovative and creative ways that allows the institution to thrive. The award will be split into two categories: **Category 1** –Large Institutions (FTEs above 5K) and **Category 2** –Smaller Institutions (FTEs below 5K).

The ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation will be presented to the current president/chancellor of the selected institutions during the ACE Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Criteria for Award

The Award for Institutional Transformation recognizes a college or university that raised, rallied or repurposed its resources to achieve dramatic and successful changes that allowed it to fulfill its mission over a relatively brief period of time. This institutional transformation could involve academic, cultural, financial, teaching/learning, or other changes undertaken to address either threats to the institution's viability or opportunities to attain a new level of excellence. The intent is not simply to acknowledge the completion of a capital campaign, modification of a core curriculum, or the accomplishments of a particular unit of an institution, however significant; it is, rather, to recognize the evolution of a college or university.

Applicants for the award must address a specific period of institutional transformation; while the transformation may still be underway, in general, the expectation is that this period will have occurred during the past five years, and that significant, demonstrable results have already been achieved. Applicants should submit as much qualitative and quantitative data as possible to demonstrate the transformation.

Entry Guidelines

Applicants should submit the following through the award website:

1. A completed Cover Page.
2. A description with supporting evidence of the threat or opportunity that the institution faced and the actions that have positioned the institution to thrive. The description should not exceed 8 pages (including qualitative data) and should be prepared in size 12 font.

Selection Process

ACE invites nominations for this award and also encourages institutions that meet the criteria for eligibility to apply directly for the award without nomination.

Nominators are asked to provide a brief description of the threat or opportunity that the institution faced and the actions that has positioned the institution to thrive. Institutions may also submit an application directly without nomination. If nominated, ACE will contact promptly the president/chancellor of the institution and encourage submission of an application.

Any U.S. college or university that is eligible for ACE membership – including all two-year and four-year, public and private, accredited, degree-granting institutions – is eligible to apply for this award. All applications must be submitted by the Office of the President/Chancellor.

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ACE will convene a panel of judges, consisting of highly regarded, retired college/university leaders, representing all segments of higher education. The panel will review qualified applications, evaluate them against the stated criteria, and make a recommendation to the senior leadership of ACE.

The president/chancellor of the winning institutions will be informed in January 2015. Public announcement of the award will occur in early 2015, with the formal presentations of the award made in March at the ACE Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Award

Each winning institution will receive a cash award in the amount of \$10,000, which may be used at the discretion of the president/chancellor.

Stipulations

1. The president/chancellor of the winning institutions must be present at the ACE Annual Meeting on **Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Washington, DC**, to receive this award in person. (Conference fees and room cost for the Meeting will be covered for one or two person(s), but not travel costs.)
2. Only the name of the institution selected to receive the award will be made public. All other materials are confidential.

How to Apply

Nominees should submit the following materials for consideration (see details in Frequently Asked Questions, below).

1. Application Cover Page (1 page).
2. Award Narrative (8 pages, double spaced): A description of the transformation of your institution. All supporting evidence should be provided in the narrative; no appendices will be accepted.

Nominations

Nominations must be received by September 12, 2014. A simple email providing a brief description of the threat or opportunity that the institution faced and the actions taken that has positioned the institution to thrive is sufficient. Please send via email to: transformationaward@acenet.edu. **Institutions may apply directly for the award without nomination.**

Deadline for Submission

Complete applications must be received by 12:00 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, October 10, 2014. All materials should be submitted as a single PDF document via e-mail to transformationaward@acenet.edu. The subject line of the email should read "ACE/Fidelity Award Submission."

Questions

Please read our Frequently Asked Questions. If you have questions or need clarification about the award process, please contact:

Hadja Bangura
transformationaward@acenet.edu
202-939-9349

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Sponsor

ACE is grateful to Fidelity for its support of this award. The American Council on Education and Fidelity Investments® are independent entities and are not legally affiliated. The recipient of the American Council on Education/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation is selected solely by ACE. Fidelity employees are not involved in any way in determining, selecting, or approving the recipient of any award.

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of institutions may apply for this award?

- Any individual institution that is eligible for [ACE membership](#) may apply, including all U.S. degree-granting colleges and universities that are accredited by a CHEA-recognized accrediting agency. Systems may not apply, but any number of campuses within a system may apply.

Do you have to be an ACE member to apply?

- No, only eligibility for ACE membership is required.

Do you have to be nominated to apply?

- No, institutions may apply directly without nomination.

Who may nominate an institution?

- Anybody familiar with an institution's story of transformation may submit a nomination, including faculty, staff, alumni or friends of the institution.

Will receiving a nomination be an advantage for our institution?

- No. The judges will not receive information on nominations. The nomination process is simply an effort to assure that all worthy institutions are aware of this award.

What are the formatting requirements for the narrative?

- Page allotment: 1 cover page plus a narrative of 8 pages maximum, double spaced (headers, footers may be single spaced).
- Font: Use a standard 12-point font.
- Margins: Uniform margins at the top, bottom, left, and right of at least .75 inch.
- Page numbers: Number each page within either the header or the footer.
- Page header: Identify the applicant's name and institution on each page following the cover page.

What information is required in the electronic application?

- Name and address of Institution
- Name and title or president/chancellor
- Contact information for Office of the President, including email address
- Website URL
- Most recent FTE enrollment
- Other statistical information relevant to your application that you wish to share

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What information should be included in the narrative?

The narrative should provide a brief and compelling story, describing:

- The threats or opportunities that your institution faced.
- The steps taken to consult stakeholders, devise a plan, and marshal resources.
- The implementation of the plan, including obstacles overcome, and assessment of the effort, which may be ongoing.
- How the actions taken resolved the challenges and repositioned the institution to thrive.

Can appendices be included with the application?

- No appendices are allowed. Any supporting evidence should be provided as part of the narrative.

What if I cannot fit my narrative within the 8-page maximum?

- Because the judges will only read the first 8 pages, you will need to adhere to this guideline for your application to be reviewed in its entirety.

Does our institution's experience meet the definition of transformation?

- Every institution's story is unique, so ACE cannot advise you on the "quality" of your transformative experience. If you have a compelling story to tell, we invite you to submit it to our panel of retired presidents/chancellors and allow them to react.