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 that, in a period of great change in higher education, has responded to challenges in innovative and creative ways that allow the institution to thrive. The award will be split into two categories: Category 1—Large Institutions (FTEs above 12K) and Category 2—Smaller Institutions (FTEs below 12K).

The ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation will be presented to the current president or chancellor of the selected institutions during the 2024 ACE Presidents and Chancellors Summit 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 over a relatively brief period of time that allowed the institution to fulfill its mission. 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 to simply acknowledge the completion of a capital campaign, modification of a core curriculum, or the accomplishments of a particular unit of an institution, however significant, but rather to recognize the evolution of an institution.

Applicants for the award must address a specific time period of institutional transformation. While the transformation may still be underway, the expectation is that this period 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. Copies of previous winning applications Category 1 and Category 2 have been provided as a guide to assist you during the application process.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

Applicants should submit the following through the award website:

- A completed submission form to be completed online via the application portal
- Application cover page which will not count toward part of the eight page narrative maximum
- A description with supporting evidence of the threat or opportunity that the institution faced and the actions that have positioned the institution to thrive which should not exceed eight pages (including qualitative data) and should be prepared in 12-point 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 contact information and 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 or chancellor of the institution and encourage submission of an application.

Any U.S. higher education institution that is an ACE member is eligible to apply for this award. All applications must be submitted by the institution's office of the president or chancellor.

ACE will convene a panel of judges, consisting of highly regarded higher education leaders who represent 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 or chancellor of the winning institutions will be informed in January 2024. The formal presentations of the awards will be made in March at the 2024 ACE Presidents and Chancellors Summit, 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 or chancellor.

STIPULATIONS

The president or chancellors of the winning institutions must be present at the 2024 ACE Presidents and Chancellors Summit on Monday, March 4–Tuesday, March 5, 2024 in Washington, DC to receive this award in person. Travel expenses up to $600 will be provided to the president or chancellors of the winning institutions. One night's lodging will also be covered for the winner.

HOW TO APPLY

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

- A completed submission form to be completed online via the application portal
- Application cover page which will not count toward part of the eight page narrative maximum
- A description with supporting evidence of the threat or opportunity that the institution faced and the actions that have positioned the institution to thrive; it should not exceed eight pages (including qualitative data), should be prepared in 12-point font, and all supporting evidence should be provided in the narrative (appendices will not be accepted)
NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be received by Sunday, November 12. An email providing contact information and a brief description of the threat or opportunity that the institution faced and the actions taken that have positioned the institution to thrive is sufficient. Email transformationaward@acenet.edu to submit a nomination. Institutions may apply directly for the award without nomination.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Completed applications must be received by Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (ET). All materials should be submitted as a single pdf document to the online application portal on the ACE/Fidelity Transformation Award web page. Please select the category that best fits your institution.

QUESTIONS

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

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 an ACE member or is willing to seek 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, but individual institutions should be willing to seek ACE membership to qualify to apply.

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 an effort to assure that all worthy institutions are aware of this award.

WHAT ARE THE Formatting REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NARRATIVE?

- Page allotment: one cover page plus a narrative of eight pages maximum, double spaced (headers and 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 inches
- 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 the institution
- Name and title or president or chancellor
- Contact information for Office of the President or Chancellor including email address
- Website URL
- Most recent FTE enrollment
- Other statistical information relevant to your application that you wish to share
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 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 experts and allow them to react.