

Universities Rebuilding America Partnership
Hurricane Relief
Honor Roll and Awards Program for
Higher Education Institutions

- Purpose of the “Universities Rebuilding America” Honor Roll and Awards program:
 - To recognize the commitment of higher education students, faculty, staff, and institutions nation-wide for their response to the recent hurricanes that devastated the Gulf region.
 - To identify and recognize those colleges and universities that have provided the most significant and meaningful contributions to the recovery/ re-building efforts of communities affected by this year’s hurricanes.
 - To identify and recognize institutional policies and structures that support college-community partnerships, and facilitate responses to such disasters.

- Honor Roll: All higher education institutions who meet the above criteria and submit their applications will be included in a broadly publicized, web-based honor roll. The honor roll will include brief descriptions of the contributions of the institution and those of their students, faculty, and staff who have responded to the disasters.

- Presidential Awards: A limited number of higher education institutions will be selected for recognition through the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. Award recipients will receive a Certificate of Achievement, will be invited to a special recognition ceremony, and have their contributions highlighted in a special Awards section of the Honor Roll.

- Application Deadline. An application Notice will be issued shortly, with an application deadline set for May 2006. All higher education institutions are eligible to submit applications/ self-nominations. Applications/ nominations must be supported by endorsement letters from affected institutions/ individuals.

- Award Selection Criteria: To be selected for the Presidential Award, applications must demonstrate **significant and meaningful contributions to the recovery of communities, organizations, and/or individuals and families** affected by the Atlantic/ Gulf hurricanes of 2005.
 - Selection decisions will be based on the relative quantity and quality of the contributions. Hence, it is important for applicants to quantify as much as possible their contributions, including the numbers of students, faculty, staff involved, and the positive impacts for hurricane affected communities/ individuals/ families.

-- Applicants will demonstrate that they have worked closely with local community agencies and authorities in responding to real and high priority needs, and that they have, to the maximum extent possible, not placed burdens (such as the need to find housing and food, etc. for relief volunteers) on the affected communities and institutions.

-- Hurricane Relief service areas: Applicants are encouraged to submit descriptions of their student/ faculty/ staff/ institutional contributions to hurricane recovery within the following categories.

- Assistance with physical rebuilding/ restoring of homes or other structures and infrastructures (including power, communication, plumbing).
 - Assistance with mitigation of the environmental impacts of the storms, including debris and waste removal.
 - Assistance with restoration of health, education, and social services.
 - Provision of office, classroom, housing space to affected individuals or institutions.
 - Remote hosting of on-line courses and/ or administrative services for hurricane affected organizations.
 - Provision of clothing, equipment, other material donations to affected individuals, families, and organizations.
 - Enrollment/ admission of displaced students.
 - Provision of scholarships to, or forgoing of tuition payments for, displaced college students.
 - Fundraising for above purposes.
 - Other.
- Institutional Supports for Community Service: Applicant higher education institutions will identify the following institutional supports as applicable, and will identify whether and how such supports contributed to the ability of the institution and its faculty/ students/ staff to respond to hurricane related needs:
- Mission statements, strategic plans, or other institution-wide policy/ planning documents placing priority on student community service, service-learning, or civic engagement.
 - Campus-wide student community service or service-learning office of function.
 - Significant service-learning opportunities for students, either curricular or co-curricular.
 - Training and professional development programs for faculty and staff re: service and service-learning practices.
 - An active Federal Work-Study community service program.
 - Institutional matching of AmeriCorps Education Awards, or provision of other scholarships or other meaningful recognition/ rewards for student service.

- Strong ongoing partnerships with local community service organizations.
 - Strong ongoing partnerships with Learn and Serve America, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, or other programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service.
 - Strong ongoing partnerships with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and/or other federal agencies supporting community or emergency services.
- Selection Panel. While all eligible nominations will be listed in the Honor Roll, selection for Presidential Awards will be made by review panels composed of staff from the Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other federal offices and agencies.