

# Celebrating Excellence

## Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Diversity



**Title:** Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Diversity

**Established:** October 2009

**Description:** Recipients of this award include UMKC staff, faculty and organizations (both academic and non-academic) with a record of excellence in fostering leadership and commitment to diversity and expanding opportunities for diverse students, staff, faculty and the surrounding community. The award recognizes sustained contributions and an active commitment to promoting and enhancing the educational experience at UMKC.

**Purpose:** This award acknowledges and celebrates individuals and units engaged in efforts that create a more inclusive campus environment, enhance our understanding of one another, and provide greater access and opportunities for the University community. It signals the university's commitment to diversity in all of its forms as a core value that benefits the entire campus. The efforts of award recipients do more than benefit those considered 'diverse'; their contributions benefit the entire UMKC campus and surrounding community.

**Eligibility:** Full-time UMKC faculty, staff, or a UMKC department, unit or organization.

**Nature of award:** Up to two \$1500 stipend awards plus commemorative wall plaques distributed annually.

- **Amount:** \$1500 + commemorative wall plaque
- **Funding source:** Chancellor's Office
- **Number of annual awards:** 1-2
- **Terms of award:** One-time, lump-sum, non-renewable award payable to recipient as a taxable stipend to an employee, or as a deposit into the account of a campus organization. Previous award recipients ineligible for repeat awards.

**Qualifying Criteria:** Recipient demonstrates consistent success in improving UMKC's diversity in one or more of the following ways: a) exceeding the diversity goals of the unit/department; b) improving accessibility for the disabled; c) improving care/education/life situations of underserved populations in the community; d) increased awareness/acceptance/including of underserved or underrepresented populations within the campus community.

**Nomination process:** Candidates may be nominated by UMKC staff, faculty, students, administrators, or community members. Nomination letters should provide specific details and examples concerning the nominee's sustained commitment to diversity and the impact of that commitment on the university community based upon the qualifying criteria above. Send electronic nomination materials to Provost Office prior to deadline via email to: [awards@umkc.edu](mailto:awards@umkc.edu)

**Deadline for Submission of Nomination Materials:** November 1 annually. **(Please note that the 2009 deadline is November 30.)** Send electronic nomination materials to Provost Office via email to: [awards@umkc.edu](mailto:awards@umkc.edu)

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**Selection Process:** The Provost will create a Service/Engagement Awards Selections Committee to review all service and engagement award nominations. The Committee will be composed of nine members who have a demonstrated commitment to diversity and community engagement: two members from the Faculty Senate, two members from the Staff Council, two members from the office of Diversity, Access and Equity, one undergraduate student, one graduate and/or professional school student, and one additional member selected by the Provost. The Provost will appoint chair. Selections Committee members will serve three-year, staggered terms with the exception of students who serve for 1 year. The Selections Committee will meet at least once annually to review all nomination materials, meeting as often as necessary to determine the most qualified recipient based upon the guidelines above and submit its recommendation to the Provost prior to December 31. The Provost and Chancellor will make the final decision based upon the committee's recommendations. The Chancellor will announce the award recipients at a spring semester award ceremony. The Selections Committee may recommend that outstanding but unsuccessful nominations be carried forward for one or, in exceptional cases, two years. Such nominations could be updated if the nominator so chooses, but this is not required. In such cases, the nominators should be notified.

The Provost will assign a non-voting staff coordinator to accept, assemble and distribute nominations materials, coordinate committee meetings, track award details for website posting and communications announcements, order commemorative plaque, and obtain award check for presentation to recipient.

**Award Date:** Awards will be presented prior to April 30.

**Recognition:** Recipient will be recognized on the UMKC Awards Web site, and presented with award check and commemorative plaque at appropriate UMKC awards event.