Lakehead University
Community-Engaged Research Award
BIG IDEAS. BETTER WORLD.

Community-engaged research is a collaborative process between universities and diverse communities. The goal of such research is to improve community well-being and to describe, through participatory knowledge creation and creative expression, how this is accomplished. Community-engaged research respects the capacity of all stakeholders to contribute to the development of new knowledge and incorporates them in the design, conduct and dissemination of the different phases of the research process. Community-engaged research is founded upon the principles of social responsibility, respect, reciprocity, democratization of knowledge creation, and social and/or ecological justice.

Lakehead University has a long history and reputation of excellence in community engagement, regionally, nationally and internationally. Lakehead University's commitment to social justice is a stated priority in the University's Strategic Plan. We believe that by working together we can make a positive difference and contribute to a more sustainable, just and healthy society.

Through this prestigious award, Lakehead University aims to recognize community-engaged research projects, along with the researchers, students and their community partners who have made those projects possible. The Community-Engaged Research Award will be given annually to individuals/teams of Lakehead University faculty members, students and community organizations in recognition of a community-engaged research project they have conducted that has had a positive and/or transformative impact.

Eligibility:

Full-time tenure-track and tenured Lakehead University faculty members, along with their community-based partners and students, are eligible for this award.

Nomination Process and Deadline:

Nominations should be submitted by December 1, 2018 by 11:59 pm to the Office of Research Services by email to: research@lakeheadu.ca. Nominations are welcomed from full-time faculty members and their students (if applicable) in conjunction with community partners. Self-nominations are also eligible. Nomination packages must contain the following documentation:
   1. A plain language summary of 150-200 words describing the objectives and impact of the project.
   2. Letter of nomination highlighting the major impact resulting from a community-engaged research project (maximum 2 pages). The nomination should be accompanied by letters of support from the community organization(s) and/or research participants (minimum 1; maximum 3). The nomination letter and letters of support should address the evaluation criteria below.
   3. Other evidence of recognition that the nominator wishes to submit in support of the nomination (maximum 3 artifacts).

Selection Committee:

A Selection Committee will be established to review submitted nominations. The Selection Committee will include representation from full-time faculty members and community organizations that have previous experience in community-engaged research. The award will be presented during Research and Innovation Week. The award will not be presented each year if there are no suitable awardees.

Award:

A $500 award will be presented to the community partner to further their research capacity-building and certificates will be presented to entire team.

Evaluation Criteria:

Community Partnership & Involvement
To what degree were community partners involved in: generation of the research question, project design/development of methodology, data analysis/interpretation of results, and/or implementation/dissemination of results?
How has/have the partner(s) been involved in decision-making?

Demonstrated Positive Impact on Community
Do the aims of the research meet community needs? How?
Has participating in the research project had a positive effect on the community partner(s) and/or the people they serve?
What is the potential of this research project to have a sustainable impact and/or to grow into new research directions?

Capacity Building in CER
Does the project foster student engagement with community-engaged research methods and/or community service learning?
Does the project involve the mentoring of early career researchers, community researchers, collaborators, or highly qualified personnel?
Has the project attracted external funding to support CER either through Lakehead or the partner organization (i.e., SSHRC Partnership programs, Trillium, etc.)
Note: If service learning is a significant component of the researcher's work, student involvement may be weighted more heavily to recognize its importance to the project/program of research.

For additional information please contact: Anne Klymenko, Director, Office of Research Services (email: aklymenk@lakeheadu.ca; ext. 8223) or PhebeAnn Wolframe-Smith, SSHRC Research Facilitator (email: sshrc.research@lakeheadu.ca; ext. 8862)