

## **Mt. SAC Presidential Student Sustainability Awards**

### **Purpose**

Today Americans stand in a pivotal new century. Voices of cynicism are prevalent in discussions about the proliferation of nuclear weapons, increasing terrorist threats, climate change, wide-scale ecological deterioration, escalating economic inequality, and diminishing prospects among our youth. Yet, our nation's character has been forged in the crucible of great struggles over slavery, equality and human dignity. In the face of world wars and depressions we have persevered in the belief that an abiding American faith tempered by pragmatism can forge a better future and that American leadership, in partnership with other nations, has an important role to play in building a better world. Today, therefore, we agree with those who say we have arrived at a historic crossroads. We maintain with Thomas Paine that "We have it in our power to begin the world again" and that America and academe have a pivotal role to play in creating this new beginning. This leadership is essential for the most pressing challenge of the new millennium: how do we create a just and sustainable society which provides solutions to the major issues of our time?

To encourage Mt. SAC students to engage in the study and exploration of topics related to sustainability, President Scroggins has established five Presidential Student Sustainability Awards. The purpose of the awards is to cultivate leaders in the development of solutions for environmental and interrelated social problems confronting the campus and the larger society of which it is a part. We define sustainability in a holistic way: integrating environmental, economic, and social dimensions. We recognize that the limitations of a strictly environmental definition of sustainability is not sufficient to allow us to solve all environmental problems, neither does it suffice to make the earth habitable for all people and for future generations. In seeking to harness the talents of students to tackle problems related to sustainability we seek to grow in them and ourselves a deeper sense of community that is founded in solidarity with preservation of the ecological commons upon which all humanity depends. In the words of Rachel Carson: "The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one less traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."

### **Description**

5 awards of \$500

### **Eligibility**

Groups, student clubs, and individual Mt. SAC students are eligible to apply. Papers and projects must have been completed within the 12 months prior to this year's application.

### **Categories**

Awards will be given for qualifying entries in each of four areas listed below plus a fifth award for best overall submission. If a category has no qualifying entry, a second award will be given in another area.

### **Research Topics and Project Areas**

**Innovative Idea** (on campus or in community) (*format*: slideshow/video with narrative)

*Example*: Green Manure (Agriculture/Horticulture)

*Example*: Plastic Reduction Campaign (Advertising/Marketing)

*Example*: Zero Waste Dining Model (Economics/Business/Culinary)

**Artistic Expression** (*medium*: audio/visual/tactile)

*Example*: Song/poem (Music/Creative Writing)

*Example*: Film/Commercial (Film/Marketing)

*Example*: Visual/Tactile (Art/Photography/Graphic Design/Sculpture)

**Research Paper/Poster** (*medium*: textual/visual document)

*Example*: Analytical thesis of an existing system at Mt. SAC that reveals the challenge of a related sustainable change (e.g., Student commuting, Parking, or Lighting)

*Example*: Explanatory (or case study) thesis of an existing Sustainability Program at a college/university (e.g., CSULB's Green Campus)

*Example*: Argumentative thesis that promotes a possible Sustainability Program at Mt. SAC

*Example*: Analytical thesis of an existing sustainability program or project in another community such as Santa Monica

*Example*: Argumentative thesis promoting a possible Sustainability Project in Walnut

**Student Leadership** (*medium*: Requires Nomination Form signed by Mt. SAC Professor)

*Example*: Student leader organizes students to push for a significant sustainability-related policy on campus

*Example*: Several different contributions that taken together are outstanding

*Example*: A student leader organizes for changes in the community or at the state level

**Interdisciplinary Jury Panel**

Each Academic Division Dean will select one faculty member to form an Interdisciplinary Jury Panel to read and evaluate submissions using an inter-reader reliability system.

**Submission process** includes delivery to a person not on the Jury Panel

**Deadlines**

When	What	Who
9/18/15	Begin discussion of award at Sustainability committee	Committee
10/23/15	Complete development of criteria, etc. and approve at Sustainability Meeting	Committee
President Scroggins sends out email announcing awards at the end of the last week of classes and again at the Spring Flex Day. The Sustainability Committee sends out an all-faculty announcement at the end of January explaining award criteria.	Announce awards (extend this into plan- who to contact, email, how to reach out [all faculty email, portal announcement, senate public comment, etc.])	
March 4, 2016	Form Jury committee & identify chair	
March 18, 2016	Application deadline	
	Chair does initial screening for eligibility	
March 30, 2016	acknowledge all applications and inform those who lack eligibility criteria	
April 4-14, 2016	Jury reviews applications	
April 15, 2016	Jury decisions completed	
April 15, 2016 (1 week before)	Inform awardees of win to ensure they will attend lecture	
April 21, 2016	Awards will be given to awardees at the annual Jerry Allen Earth Day lecture	