



2020 HxA Open Inquiry Awards Call for Nominations

In order to address society's most intractable problems, learners must weave together the best ideas from a range of perspectives. In their absence, important questions and ideas can go unexplored, key assumptions can go unchallenged, and tribalism can go unchecked, eroding the quality of research and teaching. To honor the institutions and individuals doing the complex work of improving classrooms, campuses, and scholarship, Heterodox Academy (HxA) seeks nominations for the *2020 HxA Open Inquiry Awards*.

We invite U.S.-based HxA members, graduate affiliates, and student affiliates to participate in the award nomination process by visiting and completing the submission form by September 15, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST. Self-nominations are welcomed. If you do not belong to one of these groups, we encourage you to [learn about joining HxA here](#).

Members, graduate affiliates, and student affiliates may nominate individuals, institutions, or groups in the following six award categories.

Institutional Excellence Award: For the college or university – or center or institute operating as part of a college or university – that has done the most to advance or sustain open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement either on its own campus or nationally.*

Leadership Award: For the person who has most effectively championed the principles of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in the academy and beyond.

Courage Award: For the person who has demonstrated consistent courage in pursuing truth, and embodies bravery in championing the principles of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in the academy despite social and professional costs.

Exceptional Scholarship Award: For the academic(s) who, through research or another form of scholarship, has best advanced knowledge of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, or constructive disagreement.



Outstanding Student(s) or Student Group(s) Award: Given to undergraduate or graduate students (or student groups) who have made vital and durable contributions to open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement on their campus.

Teaching Award: For the teacher(s) who has most effectively integrated open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, or constructive disagreement into the classroom and/or curriculum.

**As of August 11, 2020, the Institutional Excellence Award has been expanded to include centers and institutes operating as part of colleges and universities. The award was previously only open to colleges and universities.*

All nominators are asked to provide a well-organized submission with careful consideration to what is relevant and meaningful. Please keep in mind that those evaluating the nominations may not be familiar with the individual, institution, or group that you have nominated. Be clear about why the nominee(s) deserves the award and in what ways they have achieved excellence. For a sense of fitting nominations, you can [review the 2018 and 2019 Open Inquiry Award winners here](#).

We recognize the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on higher education, affecting every aspect of universities, and we encourage you to submit nominations for colleagues who have done excellent work despite this crisis.

[Nominations may be submitted here.](#)

Evaluation Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Support of HxA's Mission: Does the nominee show evidence of work that relates to HxA's mission of advancing open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement on college campuses?

Excellence: How is this nominee excellent as it relates to the award category? Be it visible in credentials, third-party recognition, press mentions, student evaluations, titles or promotions, or other empirically demonstrable impact, please clearly describe the nominee's excellence in the award category. Feel free to attach documents, link articles, or attach images to your application.

Completeness: Is the nomination form complete, fully answering the question prompts? Incomplete or partial nominations hinder the Awards Committee's ability to understand



why the nominee deserves the award. Please provide specific, compelling, and concise answers on the nomination form. Examples and anecdotes are not required, but are highly recommended.

The Awards Committee consists of: Irshad Manji (Member of the HxA Advisory Council), Liz Joyner (Executive Director of Village Square), Debra Mashek (HxA, Executive Director, Anthony Lusardi (representative from the 2018 Outstanding Student Group Award), and Tony Banout (Member of the HxA Board of Directors).

Awards Process

Members of HxA's Open Inquiry Awards Committee will independently review the full slate of nominations for each award. They will meet to develop a short list of three to five nominations per awards category based on the above Evaluation Criteria. The Awards Committee may also decide not to short-list any nominees in an award category. The short lists will be presented to HxA's management team, the HxA [Advisory Council](#), and the HxA [Board of Directors](#), all of whom will review the short-list nominations, and then vote to select the winner(s) for each award.

Those voting will also evaluate nominees based on the above Evaluation Criteria. The nominee from the short list who receives the greatest number of votes will be the awardee from that category. In the event of a tie, there will be a run-off vote. The winners will be announced in December 2020.