

# HETERODOX ACADEMY

## 2021 HxA Open Inquiry Contest Official Rules

**No purchase necessary to enter or win. A donation or other monetary transaction will not improve your chances of winning.**

Welcome to the Open Inquiry Contest (the “Contest”) being conducted by Heterodox Academy, a District of Columbia not-for-profit corporation with an address at 82 Nassau Street, #646, New York, NY 10038 (Sponsor”, “we”, “us”, “our”). You can register for the Contest through Sponsor’s website located at [www.heterodoxacademy.org](http://www.heterodoxacademy.org) (the “Website”). By participating in the Contest, each nominator entrant or nominee entrant who has confirmed acceptance (“entrant”, “you”, “your”) unconditionally accepts and agrees to comply with and abide by these official rules for the Contest (these “Official Rules”) and the decisions of Sponsor regarding the Contest which shall be final and binding in all respects.

Sponsor is committed not only to measuring and analyzing the challenges institutions of higher learning face with regards to open inquiry, viewpoint diversity and constructive disagreement, but also to helping identify and facilitate pathways to overcoming those challenges. The Contest highlights some of the individuals, groups, and institutions who do exemplary work promoting open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement — providing models that others can learn from, be inspired by, and perhaps even emulate. To honor the institutions and individuals doing the complex work of improving classrooms, campuses, and scholarship, Sponsor seeks nominations for the Contest.

1. Term of the Contest. The Contest will begin on April 22, 2021 at 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time (U.S.) and will finish on June 4, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (U.S.) (the “Term”).

2. Eligibility requirements. The Contest is open to all eligible legal residents of the United States who are eighteen (18) years of age and not a minor in their state of residence. Eligible nominator entrants (“Nominators”) must have registered with Sponsor as a member, graduate affiliate, student affiliate, or friend. You may become a member, graduate affiliate, student affiliate, or friend of Sponsor by registering with us at <https://heterodoxacademy.org/join/>. All other persons are ineligible to participate as a Nominator for the Contest. However, eligible nominee entrants (“Nominees”) do not have to be registered as a member, graduate affiliate, student affiliate, or friend of Sponsor. Sponsor and each of its officers, directors, managers, members, employees, agents, representatives, advertising and promotion agencies, and the immediate family members and/or persons living in the same household as each of such persons, are ineligible to participate in the Contest as an entrant. Your participation in the Contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law. Also, the Winner (or any affiliated or subsidiary entity) of any particular Contest category in a prior year is not eligible to enter in any Contest category in any subsequent year.

3. Award. One (1) Nominee will be selected by our Voting Groups(as further described below) as the winner for each named award category of the Contest (each, a “Winner”), unless the Evaluating Committee (as further described below) determines that there are insufficiently strong Nominees in any particular Contest category (after only an initial review of submissions based on the applicable criteria to be used by the Evaluating Committee) or that there is a tie among Nominees which calls for

the naming of co-Winners. A Winner may be recognized by Sponsor in traditional media, social media, and on our blog, and may be invited to write for us or participate in events, be provided other acknowledgement by Sponsor as a Winner (the "Award"). Sponsor reserves the right in our sole discretion to grant a substitute award if Sponsor determines that the Award is unavailable or cannot be awarded, in whole or in part, for any reason. Sponsor makes no representation or warranty concerning the benefit to a Winner of the Award. Restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the Award may apply. Failure to comply with these Official Rules will result in forfeiture of the Award.

4. How to Enter. Please follow our instructions (via the Website) about how to submit a nomination to us. Each nomination must be made by the entrant indicated. If we learn of any attempt by an entrant to be less than fully honest or transparent by using multiple/different email addresses, identities, registrations, logins or any other methods, such entrants shall be void and such entrant shall be disqualified. Final eligibility for the award of the Award to a Winner is subject to eligibility verification as described in these Official Rules. All eligible entries must be received prior to the expiration of the Term in order to be included in the Contest evaluation process. Sponsor's database clock will be the official timekeeper for the Contest. We invite Nominators to participate in the award nomination process by visiting and completing the nomination form to us by no later than June 4, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (U.S.). Self-nominations will be accepted.

5. Contest Categories. Sponsor encourages eligible Nominators to nominate individuals, institutions, or groups in the six Contest categories described below. All Nominators are asked to provide a well-organized nomination submission with careful consideration about why a Nominee is deserving of the applicable award and in what ways such Nominee has achieved excellence. For a sense of what Sponsor considers to be fitting nominations, please review a description of past Winners at <https://heterodoxacademy.org/open-inquiry-awards-winners/>. Submissions will be considered for each of the following categories:

- A. 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.
- B. Leadership Award: For the person or group that has most effectively championed the principles of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in academia (among colleges and universities) and beyond.
- C. Courage Award: For the person or group that has demonstrated consistent courage in championing the principles of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in the academy despite social and professional costs.
- D. Exceptional Scholarship Award: For the academic who, through research or another form of scholarship, has best advanced knowledge of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement.
- E. Outstanding Student(s) or Student Group(s) Award: For the 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.

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

## 6. Evaluation:

All eligible entries received during the Term will be evaluated by a panel of qualified judges appointed by Sponsor (the "Evaluating Committee"), to select a short list of Nominees using the applicable criteria provided. Members of the Evaluating Committee will independently review the full slate of nominations for each Contest category, and will then meet to develop a short list of up to five Nominees for each Contest category. These short lists of Nominees for each category will be presented to all voting groups (the "Voting Groups"), which include: the Evaluating Committee, Sponsor's management team, Sponsor's Board of Directors, and Sponsor's Advisory Council. All members of the Voting Groups will independently review the short list of Nominees for each Contest category, and will then vote (one vote per individual) using the applicable evaluation criteria to select the Winner (or Winners) for each Contest category. However, based on the foregoing determinations, the Voting Groups may select more than one Winner per Contest category or determine that there is no eligible Winner for a particular Contest category. Winners will be announced in September 2021. Sponsor may change the members of the Evaluating Committee and other members of the Voting Groups as it determines in its sole discretion.

All nominations (for each Contest category) will be evaluated using the following criteria by the Evaluating Committee to determine a short list of Nominees. All Nominees on this short list will be evaluated using the same following criteria by the Voting Groups to determine a winner or winners for each Contest category:

**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. Supporting documentation such as articles, academic papers, or other materials relevant to the award category are strongly encouraged and aid evaluation.

**Completeness:**

Is the nomination form complete, fully answering the question prompts? Incomplete or partial nominations hinder reviewers' ability to understand why the Nominee deserves the award. Please provide specific, compelling, and concise answers on the nomination form.

Sponsor reserves the right to not award an Award in one or all Contest categories if the Evaluating Committee and/or the Voting Groups determine(s) that there are an insufficient number of eligible and qualified entries for such category. Evaluation scores will not be revealed. The decisions of the Evaluating Committee and the Voting Groups are final and binding on entrants in all matters.

7. Restrictions. Sponsor is not responsible for (i) the failure to properly submit a nomination (whether due to error or otherwise), (ii) any lost, late, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, incorrect, illegal, stolen or misplaced entries, (iii) electronic, network or computer failures or malfunctions, or (iv) any failed, incomplete, garbled or delayed computer transmission, hardware, software or technical errors of any kind including any injury or damage to any person's computer, that may limit your ability to participate in the Contest. Sponsor reserves the right to cancel or modify the Contest (or any portion thereof) if fraud, misconduct or technical failures impact the integrity of the Contest or if a computer virus, bug, or other technical problem corrupts the administration, security, or proper administration of the Contest, in each case as determined by Sponsor in our sole discretion.

8. Verification and Approval of the Winner. In order to receive the Award, a Winner shall be required to provide certain basic information to us and agree to allow HxA to publish these materials as they relate to the Contest. In order to receive the Award, a Winner must also have been and continue to be in full compliance with these Official Rules. Failure to execute and deliver such a document or otherwise to be in compliance with these Official Rules may result in disqualification of a Winner and the selection of an alternate winner. Upon proper verification and approval, the Award will be awarded to a Winner.

9. Limitation of Liability. Sponsor is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in connection with the Contest or by any technical or human error, which may occur in the processing of entries. Sponsor assumes no responsibility for any misdirected or lost mail, or any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay of operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. Sponsor is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any network providers, computer systems, servers, computer equipment, software, failure of email accounts, traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website or combination thereof or other technical problems, including without limitation injury or damage resulting from the downloading of any materials related to the Contest. If, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as planned, including without limitation due to causes beyond the control of Sponsor or which Sponsor determines (in our sole discretion) negatively impacts the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Contest, then Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. In such an event, Sponsor may, in our sole discretion, evaluate entries from among all eligible entries received prior to the date of such cancellation, termination, modification or suspension.

10. Conditions. By participating in the Contest, each entrant agrees: (i) to be bound by these Official Rules, (ii) to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations; (iii) that neither Sponsor nor any of its officers, directors, managers, members, employees, agents or representatives are responsible or liable for any claim, injury, loss, harm, damages, costs or expenses, including, without limitation, property damage, personal injury and/or death, arising out of or related to such entrant's participation in the Contest, any activities related to the Award, or the acceptance use and/or misuse of the Award; (iv) that, except where prohibited by law, acceptance of the Award constitutes the grant of an unconditional right to use the Winner's name, voice, likeness, photograph, address (city and state), biographical information, information about the nomination and Award and/or statements about the Contest for any publicity, advertising and promotional purposes for this or similar promotions without additional compensation; (v) that acceptance of the Award constitutes a waiver of any claim in connection with the Award to royalties, rights or remuneration for said use; (vi)

that all costs and expenses incurred by a Winner in connection with the Award, including without limitation applicable taxes and insurance (if any) are the Winner's sole responsibility; and (vii) that the internal laws of the State of New York shall apply exclusively to the Contest and that any dispute in connection with or related to the Contest shall be resolved in the federal or state courts located in the County of New York, State of New York. Sponsor reserves the right to modify or discontinue the Contest and these Official Rules at any time for any reason.

11. Disclaimer. The Contest may be run from a third party website, and in such a case each entrant acknowledges that (i) upon registering for the Contest such entrant is also providing the operator of such third party website with accurate and updated entrant's personally identifiable information of such entrant (and that such activity is governed by the privacy policy of such third party), and (ii) Sponsor does not sponsor, endorse or administer any such third party website or its operator, and such third party website and its operator does not sponsor, endorse or administer Sponsor or the Contest.