



AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award

Nominations are due April 15, 2024.

AEJMC is seeking nominations (applications and self-nominations are welcome) for the 2024 AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award, which recognizes journalism and mass communication academic units that are working toward, and have attained measurable success, in increasing equity and diversity among their faculty, staff and students. The unit must display progress and innovation in racial, gender, and ethnic equality and diversity during the previous three years.

The AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award has been presented each year since 2009, with the most recent recipient for 2023 being the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media at the University of Memphis. A full listing of the previous recipients is available on our website at <https://www.aejmc.org/home/scholarship/award-recipients/>

The 2024 AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award will be presented during AEJMC's Philadelphia Conference to be held Aug. 7-11. The AEJMC president also will travel to the winning academic unit during the 2024-25 academic year to make an on-campus presentation of the award. The AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award selection committee will expect applications to address all the items listed as the committee will evaluate efforts over the past three years (2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024) in these following areas:

- **Hiring and Recruitment:** The academic unit illustrates efforts in recruiting, hiring and retaining qualified faculty from groups historically underrepresented in U.S. academia and/or from groups that reflect the communities that the unit serves. Evidence may include description of the unit's protocols for recruitment, hiring and retention. Recent faculty hires that contribute to the unit's diversity should be noted and the percentage of diverse faculty in the unit as a whole should be calculated and included.
- **Status of Current Faculty:** The academic unit illustrates equitable representation among full-time and part-time faculty that include groups historically underrepresented in U.S. academia and/or groups that reflect the communities that the unit serves. Evidence should include retention efforts, recent tenure and promotion rates, mentoring, and faculty participation in service/activities.
- **Climate:** The academic unit illustrates a supportive climate. The unit strives to be free of discrimination. Evidence should include curriculum and programming, faculty/student perceptions, and decreasing number of grievances.

- **Institutionally Embedded Support:** The academic unit offers formal support for equity and diversity initiatives. Evidence should include mentorship activities and graduate student support.
- **Other Initiatives to Foster Diversity:** The academic unit has initiated other diversity efforts not listed above. Evidence should include specific details of such initiatives.

Applications may be submitted by any AEJMC or ASJMC member, by any faculty member within the nominated unit, or by the head of the nominated unit. However, **ONLY ONE APPLICATION** may be submitted by a single university's communication or journalism/mass communication unit. If multiple applications from the same college or school are submitted, they will be returned to the college to determine which **SINGLE** application the university would like considered. The following application materials are required:

- (a) A cover letter or emailed text that includes contact person's name, phone numbers and email address; title and address of nominated unit and institution; and name and title of unit's head.
- (b) A completed EDA Demographics Form for each of the **THREE** previous years being considered for the 2024 Award (2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024) that provides a description of the unit's faculty and students, its degrees conferred, and other information. The form is available on the AEJMC website at http://www.aejmc.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/EDA_DemForm2024.pdf
- (c) A narrative, which describes the equity and diversity efforts of the academic unit. The narrative might include goals, actions, steps and outcomes toward achieving a work environment that promotes equity and diversity.
- (d) A letter from the unit head supporting the nomination.
- (e) At least (3) additional letters of support/recommendation.

Applications may include additional materials, such as description of specific institutional policies or legislation outlining diversity opportunities or barriers, and documentation of other awards received. The full application should not exceed 25 pages (excluding letters of recommendation/support).

Complete applications MUST BE COLLATED into ONE DIGITAL FILE AS A PDF FILE and sent only once as an email attachment to AEJMC at the FOLLOWING ADDRESS: lillian@aejmc.org. Mention "AEJMC diversity" in the subject line of the email submission. Only emailed applications will be accepted. Applications that are incomplete (i.e. without completed data charts for the three years under consideration) will not be considered. **Important:** Applications remain active and eligible for three years; BUT reconsidered academic units **MUST SUBMIT** updated data charts for the three years under consideration. Previous Equity & Diversity Award recipients may apply again after 10 years of receiving the award.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. EDT, April 15, 2024. Per the decision of the AEJMC Board of Directors, this (and all other association awards) deadline will **NOT** be extended. Late or missing application materials will not be accepted. Nominators or applicants are encouraged to make sure applications are complete before submitting. An e-mail acknowledgment of the receipt of a completed application will be sent no later than 10 days following the April 15th deadline. Late applications will be included in next year's competition. Please address any questions to 2024 Equity & Diversity Award Committee Chair George L. Daniels, gdaniels@ua.edu. The committee reserves the right not to present an award in any given year.