**Excellence in Community Engagement Award**

**Purpose:** The Excellence in Community Engagement Award at Durham Technical Community College is presented to faculty or staff employees who demonstrate exemplary leadership and dedication in serving the community. The award may be in recognition of individual service or for the promotion of service on Durham Tech’s campus. Qualifying activities can include participating in, developing, or promoting the following:

- volunteerism
- service leadership
- community-based learning
- campus outreach
- partnership building
- curricular engagement
- co-curricular engagement
- community-based research
- educational programming
- community service
- civic participation
- service-learning

This award aspires to recognize good practices in our midst, so as to encourage partnership-building between the college and our greater communities and to increase community-beneficial acts among Durham Technical Community College’s employees. Award recipients will be employees most dedicated to improving their worlds through service contributions. Preference will be given to those whose service clearly informs their roles and work as a Durham Technical Community College employee.

Examples of recognizable service include:

- developing students’ community engagement by providing service leadership opportunities and/or broadening students’ understanding of quality service through an advising role with a student club;
- utilizing service-learning to teach learning outcomes through service to the community;
- building partnerships between a program and non-profit organization for mutually beneficial collaborations; or
- providing significant direct or indirect service that informs one’s work at Durham Tech.

Overall, recipients should exhibit exemplary contributions that have improved the well-being of the community and have—directly or indirectly—positively affected the learning environment at Durham Technical Community College.

**Eligibility and definitions:** All full-time and continuing part-time employees who have a minimum of one year of service at the college are eligible for award consideration. An employee may receive this award up to two times but not within a five-year span. Any employee with a current conditional contract is not eligible for this award. Efforts eligible for recognition must provide service for the community at large. Service to religious, fraternal, or professional groups providing services only to members cannot be considered.

Please keep in mind that communities can be defined broadly. While service within Orange and Durham counties is preferred, our cross-cultural connections with regional, national, and international communities also compel us to recognize and encourage service beyond Durham Tech’s immediate service area of Durham and Orange counties.
Award: The first Excellence in Community Engagement Award was presented during 50th anniversary celebrations as part of our Year of Service. Subsequent award winners will be acknowledged during the final employee meeting of the academic year, which usually takes place in early May. The award consists of $1,000, an Excellence in Community Engagement Award plaque, a designated parking space, and the employee’s name and year of recognition engraved on the Excellence in Community Engagement plaque displayed on campus.

Nomination Procedures: The award process requires an application with responses to brief essay questions; therefore, self-nominations are welcomed. To apply, candidates should fill out the Excellence in Community Engagement Award application. However, sometimes those who serve can be quite humble, and for this reason nominations are accepted. If you think a co-worker deserves this award, please complete the simple Excellence in Community Engagement Nomination Form. The potential candidate will be contacted and asked to submit an application for consideration.

Selection Process: Applications will be evaluated on the following criterion:

1. Effect of the community engagement on the community (outcomes for the community or individuals in the community)
2. Effect of the community engagement on the college (effect of the service on the learning experience of students or positive reflection on college’s mission)
3. Effect of the nominee (his/her contribution, level of participation, demonstration of leadership, or indication of other skills)
4. Exemplary attributes of the nominee’s efforts (to what degree did the service provide for an unmet need in the community; innovation of the project; mutual benefit; project scale; overall contribution)

Please note: an applicant needn’t exhibit excellence in all these areas to receive recognition.

The selection committee will be comprised of at least three individuals who will be members of the Service-Learning and Community Engagement Advisory Committee. Any member of the committee who has submitted an application for the award must recuse himself or herself from participating in candidate evaluations for that year’s nominees.