

Nancy and Joseph Birkle Student Engagement Award

Center for Democratic Deliberation

Call for Nominations Spring 2018

The Center for Democratic Deliberation (CDD) annually recognizes students who help to advance the Center's mission of promoting democratic deliberation. This award was created, through the generosity of Gretchen A. Birkle ('86), to honor graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts who have made significant efforts to enhance the state of civic engagement and public discourse concerning important issues.

Eligibility: A nominee must be either an undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled in the College of the Liberal Arts at University Park. Nominations of individuals who participate in programs or activities supported by the CDD are especially encouraged.

Selection Criteria: Nominees may be recognized for working to enhance public awareness of important issues, helping to shape ongoing public discussions in novel and constructive ways, or upholding high standards of public deliberation in their own speaking and writing. Nominees' contributions may originate as classroom exercises, service-learning assignments, academic research, or internship projects. Whatever their academic origin, nominees' contributions should be designed to engage audiences beyond the classroom in order to make credible contributions to the public good.

Application Procedure: Nominees should complete a nomination form, which includes: 1) information about the nominee; 2) a brief essay in which the nominee describes their contributions to democratic deliberation; and 3) a letter of support from a faculty member or community leader attesting to the nominee's contributions to democratic deliberation.

Selection Procedure: Recipients of this award will be notified by the Director of the CDD. The Office of Student Aid, which is responsible for ensuring compliance with regulations concerning federal, state, and other aid in accordance with University policy regarding academic scholarships under University control, will be informed of all awards.

Amount and Term of Award: In addition to a monetary prize, honorees will receive a plaque commemorating their achievement. Award recipients may be nominated in subsequent years based on new or continuing contributions to democratic deliberation.

Deadline and Award Presentations: All nominees must submit complete applications to the Director of the CDD, Bradford Vivian (bjv113@pus.edu), by **Friday, March 23, 2018**. The Award will be presented at the the CDD banquet, following the Kenneth Burke Lecture (on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at the Nittany Lion Inn, 6:00 p.m.).

For more information about the Center for Democratic Deliberation, please visit <http://cdd.la.psu.edu/>.

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NOMINATION FORM

1. Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Major or Department in CLA: _____

Graduate or Undergraduate: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

2. Nominees should attach a brief essay (500 words maximum) describing their participation in, and contributions to, public deliberation. For instance, nominees might describe instances in which they have:

- Raised awareness about important issues facing the university, State College community, their hometown, or even national and international affairs.
- Participated in meaningful civic forums or debates.
- Conducted significant research—with implications for democratic society and civic engagement—that advances public understanding of constructive public discourse.
- Contributed to the research, teaching, or outreach initiatives of the Center for Democratic Deliberation or one of its partners.

3. Nominees should attach a letter of support from a faculty member, advisor, community leader, or other person attesting to the nominee's contributions to constructive public deliberation.

Nominees should submit their completed applications to Bradford Vivian, Director of the CDD, at bjv113@psu.edu, by **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**.