FIU University Graduate School
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

UGS Excellence Award
for Graduate Student Engagement

April 16, 2026

PURPOSE

The **UGS Excellence Award for Graduate Student Engagement** recognizes nominees who, in conjunction with graduate faculty, have demonstrated significant local, regional, or global community engagement through a community partnership that has led to demonstrable community impacts.

ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees must be currently enrolled graduate students, fully admitted to a degree-granting program (i.e. certificate students are not eligible).
- Nominations must be submitted by a faculty nominator. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

11:59 pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2026

CRITERIA

Excellence in engagement will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Nominees will have demonstrated their involvement in a significant local, regional, or global community engagement initiative with a community partner that has led to demonstrable university and community impacts.
2. Evidence of impact must be reciprocal (win-win) and must portray how the university's intellectual capital (research, creative activity, service learning, internships, and others) is applied in community problem-solving.
3. Community impact describes the effect or impact of the partnership on community resources, services, capacity for service, organization, strategic plan, and clients.

DOCUMENTATION

- **Curriculum Vitae**: Must be submitted along with faculty letter(s) of nomination.
- **Faculty Letter(s)**: Letter from the faculty nominator(s) explaining why the nominee should receive this award. Minimum requirement is one letter; maximum is three.
- **Engagement Activities Summary**: Reports and relevant documents that contain impact data or other information.
- **Community letter**: Letters from community members explaining why the nominee should receive the award. Letter(s) from the community providing evidence of engagement activities. Minimum requirement is one letter, maximum is three.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS: Please visit the Graduate Student Engagement Nomination Form to submit your nomination.

AWARD AMOUNT

One award is available in the amount of $2,000.00. Recipients will be invited to attend the UGS Excellence Awards Reception on Thursday, April 16, 2026.