

## Betsy Alden Outstanding Service-Learning Awards

The Betsy Alden Outstanding Service-Learning Awards honor one graduating senior, one faculty member, and one community partner for their exceptional commitment to the ideals of service-learning. Each recipient will receive \$500 to further develop their community-building and leadership skills.

### Nomination Instructions

Members of the Duke community or community partner organizations may nominate eligible students, faculty members, or community partners (individuals or organizations) for a Betsy Alden Outstanding Service-Learning Award.

- **Faculty and Community Partner Nominations:**  
Submit a statement (approximately 500 words) explaining why the nominee deserves the award, based on the selection criteria below.
- **Student Nominations:**  
Submit a statement (approximately 500 words) explaining why the nominee deserves the award, based on the selection criteria below.
  - In addition, the student nominee must provide a short description or reflection on their service-learning experiences at Duke. Please share the instructions below with the student as early as possible (ideally by the first week of March) to allow them time to prepare their statement before the nomination deadline, typically the week after Spring Break.

**Joint nominations are welcome.**

Submit nominations to Kathy Sikes, Assistant Director, Duke Service-Learning, via:

- **Email:** [kathy.sikes@duke.edu](mailto:kathy.sikes@duke.edu)
- **Mail:** Box 90739
- **In Person:** West Duke 213

**Deadline:** March 20th

## Eligibility

The following individuals are eligible for a Betsy Alden Award:

- **Graduating Seniors** who have participated in at least one Duke service-learning course.
  - **Faculty Members** who have taught at least one service-learning course at Duke.
  - **Community Partners** who have collaborated with Duke students and faculty in service-learning initiatives.
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## Selection Criteria

- **Graduating Seniors:**
    - Demonstrated leadership, initiative, or ongoing commitment to academic service-learning.
    - Quality of reflection about the service-learning experience.
  - **Faculty:**
    - Meaningful integration of service experiences with course content (e.g., structured service, selection of community partners, use of critical reflection).
    - Consideration of and commitment to community partners' needs.
    - Long-term commitment to service-learning and the Duke service-learning community.
  - **Community Partners:**
    - Commitment to the academic and personal development of Duke students.
    - Collaboration with Duke students and faculty members.
    - Length and depth of involvement with Duke service-learning initiatives.
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## About Betsy Alden

Referred to as one of the "founding mothers" of service-learning at Duke, Betsy Alden began blending learning and service in the 1980s. Over a decade, she transformed service-learning at Duke into a vibrant, cross-disciplinary practice.

For Betsy Alden, service-learning is about building humane relationships and connecting to deeper ideals of reciprocity, partnership, and sustained community commitment. Her legacy reflects her ability to bring people together and inspire long-term engagement with service-learning. [Learn more here.](#)

## Nomination Letter Template

**Subject:** Nomination for Betsy Alden Outstanding Service-Learning Award

Dear [Student, Professor, Community Partner],

I am delighted to nominate you for the Betsy Alden Outstanding Service-Learning Award at Duke! This award recognizes one graduating senior, one faculty member, and one community partner for their outstanding commitment to the ideals of service-learning.

Each recipient receives \$500 to further develop their community-building and leadership skills. Students, faculty members, and community partners who have participated in at least one Duke service-learning course are eligible.

To accept this nomination, please provide a short description or reflection on your service-learning experiences at Duke (e.g., service-learning courses or other experiences that connect civic engagement to your academic studies). Your reflection will be included in the nomination package I submit on your behalf.

**Suggested length:** One page

**Deadline for submission:** March 20<sup>th</sup>

The selection criteria for graduating seniors include:

1. Leadership, initiative, or ongoing commitment to academic service-learning.
2. Quality of reflection about the service-learning experience.

All nominees who submit materials will be recognized at the Duke University Student Leadership and Service Awards program in April. You will receive an invitation for this event later in the spring. Please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance preparing your reflection.

Best regards,

[Your Name]