Thomas R. Tillia Community Service Award

About

In an effort to recognize a member institution with a unique, spirited, and outstanding record of community service, ACCET has established the Thomas R. Tillia Community Service Award in honor of the late Thomas R. Tillia of Elwood City, Pennsylvania. Thomas “Tom” Tillia dutifully served ACCET for over 20 years working both as Commission Representative and as Commission Chair. Apart from being the co-founder of a successful institution that provided computer services and educational opportunities to thousands in surrounding counties in Pennsylvania, he is most remembered as a devoted and ever-committed member of the all-volunteer organization, The Red Barn Theatre, toward which his creativity, resourcefulness, and inspirational energy have ultimately defined his legacy. In his years of service to The Red Barn, Tom wore many hats. He served as an actor, a director, a producer, a member of the board of directors, vice president, president, a friend, confidant, comedian, and a mentor. To this day, The Red Barn, continues to honor Tom for his past productions that delight patrons and artists in the community.

The Thomas R. Tillia Community Service Award is presented to one institution each year at the ACCET Annual Conference. This award recognizes a school that demonstrates an ongoing, positive impact on community by benefiting the people, the infrastructure, and/or the natural environment. ACCET welcomes applications from all member institutions that are currently accredited and in good standing. Institutions on “Show Cause” status can only submit an application once this status has been vacated. Note that institution’s with multiple branch campus locations can submit an application on behalf of one branch location and its specific and particular involvement separate from the institution as a whole.

Application

Institution Name:

ACCET #: Accredited Since:

Part 1: Define “Community”

From the perspective of your institutional culture – define what community means. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Is community local? (i.e. neighbors, area residents, local organizations…)
- Is community your institution’s professional field? (i.e. professional support organizations; partnering schools, successful and active alumni…)
- Is community state-wide and/or regional?
o (i.e. regional/state-specific activity and/or involvement)

• Is community _national_?
  o (i.e. related to organizations, events, activities that have a national reach and/or impact)

• Is community _global_?
  o (i.e. an international focus that incorporates overseas activity or brings perspectives from abroad and/or a proactive sharing of culture)

• Is community “other”?
  o Does your institution have an alternate definition? Enlighten us.

This can be done in narrative format, in audio/video format, in PowerPoint format, or in another medium suited to your institution’s brand and style.

**Part 2: Strut Your Stuff**

Describe and/or show how your institution’s programs, collaborations, professional relationships, and/or student services have provided added value to the “community” as you have defined it, and further how this involvement has provided added value to your school. Provide examples of how actions taken by your staff, faculty and/or students have exceeded the institution’s mission and/or expectations of stakeholders or community actors. Be selective and intentional in the examples you choose to highlight. Take care to choose involvement that exemplifies ongoing, long-term, substantial activity and/or relationship(s) that are extraordinary and have yielded notable results/benefits.

This can be presented in narrative, pictorial, audio/visual or any mixed media format deemed appropriate by the institution. Those choosing narrative format should limit it to a maximum of 2 pages (approximately 750 words). Simply listing organizations is not sufficient for this portion of the application.

**Part 3: The Proof is in the Pudding**

Provide examples of one or more of the following: social media excerpts, press releases, newspaper articles, radio reports, interviews, and/or magazine/journal/blog pieces that highlight, describe, or feature your institution’s community involvement. Recorded testimonials from outside parties, written recommendation letters, and/or letters of appreciation from community members, leaders, or organizations can also be submitted. Additionally, if your institution has received an award (or awards) within the last 18 months for charitable and/or community service projects, please share these accomplishments and copies of any awards.

This section of the application can be submitted as a series of electronic attachments as PDF files and/or video/sound files or in an alternate pictorial collage open to interpretation in style and format.
Instructions & Notes on the Process

1. All applications must be submitted in full by September 6, 2019.

2. Applications should be submitted to Donna Hutchison at dhutchison@accet.org and copied to Cristina Rodarte at crodarte@accet.org.

3. Questions regarding application submissions should be directed to Donna Hutchison or Cristina Rodarte (emails noted above) or to the following number: +1 202 656 5135.

4. ACCET welcomes applications from all member institutions that are currently accredited and in good standing. Institutions on “Show Cause” status can only submit an application once this status has been vacated.

5. Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by an ACCET employee within 48 hours of submission. If, for any reason, receipt of your submission is not acknowledged within the 48-hour timeframe, please contact Donna Hutchison at dhutchison@accet.org or call the ACCET office at: +1 202 955 1113.

6. Submissions will be reviewed and discussed by the ACCET Community Service Award Committee. This committee is comprised of a combination of ACCET staff, ACCET Commissioners (public members only), and individuals with long-standing ACCET affiliation through involvement as an outside Commission Representative or through active participation in annual conferences. Note that institutional members of the Commission are prohibited from committee participation to avoid potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

7. All application submissions are assessed on a holistic rubric from 1 – 5, with “5” being the highest rating.

8. Note: In the event of tie scoring and a tie committee vote, the ACCET Executive Director will weigh-in on the decision, thus casting the tie breaking vote and determining the honoree.

9. The top three finalists will be invited to present a poster version of their application to be highlighted during a session at the ACCET conference.

10. The institution selected as the recipient for this award will be recognized for its outstanding community contributions at the annual ACCET conference and will be invited to provide a brief presentation at the general closing session.