

2015 President's Awards for Exemplary Public Engagement

President Robert J. Jones is pleased to announce the 2015 award winners of the University at Albany President's Award for Exemplary Public Engagement. Representing publicly-engaged research, teaching, and service, these nine exemplars and their community partners are working to address complex societal challenges and positively impact the quality of life in the region, state, and beyond. Our 2015 winners include:

- **Edmund Russell Altone, MA, MPH** – a faculty member in the School of Public Health working closely with refugee communities in the Capital Region to improve health and wellbeing, access to medical care, and cultural competency of medical providers.
Partners: Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc., Capital Region Refugee Roundtable; Albany County Department of Health; US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants; Global Institute for Health & Human Rights
- **Emerging Issues in the Nonprofit Sector** – a joint initiative of Rockefeller College, School of Social Welfare, and School of Public Health to build the capacity of Capital Region nonprofit organizations to improve programs and service delivery.
Partners: United Way of Northeastern New York; Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce; Chamber of Schenectady County; Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce; AVillage, Inc.
- **Five Quad Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc.** – a UAlbany student-run ambulance squad providing first response emergency medical care to the UAlbany campus and surrounding neighborhoods.
Partners: Guilderland Emergency Medical Services; Regional Emergency Medical Organization; Albany Fire Department; Mohawk Ambulance Service; Town of Colonie Emergency Medical Services; Western Turnpike Rescue Squad; several internal UAlbany partners
- **Healthy Families New York, Center for Human Services Research** – a research collaboration providing expectant and new parents across New York with home visitation services and education on parenting, pre- and neo-natal care, child growth and development, and school readiness.
Partners: New York State Office of Child and Family Services; Healthy Families Schenectady; Prevent Child Abuse New York
- **Just for the Kids NY** – a research collaboration using New York's K-12 student and school data to identify best practices of effective schools and to develop new interventions to improve schools and student learning outcomes.
Partners: Greater Amsterdam School District; New York State School Boards Association; New York State United Teachers; Capital Region BOCES; New York State Council of School Superintendents; several internal UAlbany partners
- **Looking at Lemon: Transforming Life through Literature** – a joint initiative of the NYS Writers Institute, Performing Arts Center, University Art Museum, and UAlbany Foundation to bring writer and performance artist Lemon Anderson to Albany High School to speak to students about the importance of the arts and literature.
Partners: Albany High School; Albany Fund for Education
- **National Youth in Transition Database Peer Caller Program, Center for Technology in Government** – a collaboration using the input of youth in foster care to develop and implement a one-of-a-kind model of peer support to improve outcomes for youth as they transition out of the foster care system.
Partners: New York State Office of Child and Family Services
- **Problem Gambling Research and Treatment Group** – a 12-year partnership of researchers and practitioners to develop and test an innovative treatment model to help individuals with compulsive gambling disorders.
Partners: Center for Problem Gambling; Capital Counseling
- **Derik Smith, PhD** – a faculty member in the English Department developing community workshops on African American literature and teaching college credit-bearing courses to prison inmates.
Partners: Bard Prison Initiative; African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region

These exemplars represent only a small portion of the important contributions many of you are making to address public needs, local to global. Together we are advancing community engagement as a core value of the University at Albany.

Join us on Tuesday, April 28th from 5pm to 6:30pm as we honor these award winners and their community partners for their exciting and impactful publicly engaged work. RSVP today!