Category: Service to Humanity

Awards: Laura Wooten Service Award

Background

“In the Nation's Service and the Service of Humanity” --- this informal motto, central to Princeton University’s educational and research mission, extends to the value of commitment to the larger community beyond our campus. The “Laura Wooten Service Award” is in honor of Mrs. Laura Wooten (1920 - 2019), a long-standing Campus Dining team member who spent 27 years creating a warm and welcoming experience for everyone who stepped in the Butler College dining hall. All who met her remember her kindness and sincerity. While she embodied the best of University Services' values, her remarkable story doesn't stop there.

Laura Wooten, through years of steadfast service, earned the record as the longest, continuously serving poll worker in the United States, having volunteered at local, primary and general election polls for 79 years. Her unwavering support of our democratic process and the importance of voting inspired more than a generation of Princetonians and continues to offer a powerful example of how one person’s contribution can make a difference.

The Laura Wooten Service Award is presented to a University Services staff member, who, like Laura Wooten, shows a steadfast commitment to making a positive impact in his/her/their community or with a chosen cause.

Some examples may include but are not limited to:

- Volunteering within the community (soup kitchen, nursing home or hospital, animal shelter, EMT/firefighter)
- Civic engagement (volunteering on a non-University council or committee, serving in the national guard)
- Mentoring or coaching (Big Brother/Big Sister, youth sports, tutoring)
- Committed to a local, national, or global environmental or humanitarian cause

Selection

Award winners will meet the general requirements (see General Guidelines) and be selected based on the committee’s review of Part II: About the Nominee on the nomination form.

Award

Award winners will receive a monetary award of $1,500 and a commemorative plaque, which will be presented at the annual Rewards and Recognition event. Recipients of the Laura Wooten Service Award may not be considered for a second Laura Wooten Service Award within a five-year period. Winners are eligible to be nominated for awards in different categories. Please note that all monetary awards are subject to taxes and dollar amounts are subject to change each year.

Nomination Process

To nominate a colleague for the Laura Wooten Service Award, please complete PART I through PART III.

For assistance with this form, speak with your manager, contact Verita Murrill (vmurrill@princeton.edu or 609.258.2676), or make an appointment with Princeton Writes (pwrites@princeton.edu or 609.258.9980).
PART I. WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO NOMINATE?
Name
Title and Department

PART II. ABOUT THE NOMINEE
Please choose Option 1 or Option 2 below. Attach additional pages to this form if necessary.

Option 1: Nominators may answer as many of the following questions that describe why the individual you have nominated should be awarded the Laura Wooten Service Award. Additional information may be attached to this form.

Option 2: Submit a free-form nomination, using the questions below as a guide, and attach it to this form.

Describe the nominee’s contribution to his/her/their community or cause and how it fits with the University’s informal motto: “in the Nation’s Service and in the Service of Humanity”

Share specific examples of the nominee’s impact or influence. / How has the nominee made an impression or impacted the community?

Laura Wooten was known for being caring, selfless, persistent, determined, inspiring, passionate, and humble. Provide specific examples of how the nominee embody one or more of these characteristics.

How does this nominee inspire or motivate others to better themselves or the community?

PART III. NOMINATOR INFORMATION
The selection committee may contact you if additional information is needed.

Name and Title
Email or Phone

Submission Deadline: December 29, 2023. Email completed forms to tellus@princeton.edu or send through campus mail to University Services Rewards and Recognition, 7 New South, Office of the VP. Submit online at https://usrecognition.princeton.edu.