



ACGME Barbara Ross-Lee, DO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Barbara Ross-Lee, DO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award FAQs

Why did the ACGME establish the Barbara Ross-Lee, DO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award?

The award was created to recognize Sponsoring Institutions, programs, specialty organizations, and non-profit organizations working to diversify the underrepresented physician workforce and to create inclusive workplaces that foster humane, civil, and equitable environments. Awardees will serve as both motivation and demonstration that graduate medical education (GME) can play an important role in advancing the mission of diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine.

Who is eligible for the award?

Sponsoring Institutions

- Sponsoring Institutions must be ACGME-accredited and have a status of Continued Accreditation.
- Nominees must not have been a previous recipient of this award, although different programs within a previously recognized Sponsoring Institution remain eligible to apply.

GME Programs

- GME programs being nominated must be ACGME-accredited and have a status of Continued Accreditation.
- Nominees must not have been a previous recipient of this award, although different programs within a previously recognized Sponsoring Institution remain eligible to apply.

Specialty Organizations

- Nominations must be for a national or regional diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative.
- Nominees must not have been a previous recipient of this award.

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations

- Nominations must be for a national or regional diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative being conducted in a GME setting.

What is awarded?

Award winners will be publicly honored for their achievement, including prominent placement on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Awards sections of the ACGME website, inclusion in a press release announcing all ACGME Award recipients, and receipt of a commemorative plaque. ACGME Award winners are also displayed prominently throughout the ACGME office in Chicago, Illinois. Additionally, a representative and guest (or two representatives) for each awardee will receive travel and accommodations expenses paid by the ACGME to travel to the 2026 ACGME Annual Educational Conference to receive the award. Conference registration will



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also be waived. The 2026 conference will take place on February 19-21 in San Diego, California.

Finally, each awardee receives an expenses-paid retreat experience unlike any other. New and former ACGME awardees meet in a setting designed to support and honor them and their work and create a space that invites but does not intrude, fostering a sense of community. Details will be provided to awardees following their selection.

How many awards will be granted?

Up to four awards are presented each year.

When will the award winners be announced?

The ACGME Awards Committee will select winners at its fall 2025 meeting, and shortly after, recipients will be notified. Award announcements will be published in a press release, the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, the ACGME e-Communication, and on the ACGME website and social media accounts.

Who should letters of support come from in the nominations for the award?

- A current resident/fellow
- A program director
- The designated institutional official, or the chair of the Graduate Medical Education Committee
- Another person(s) involved in GME who can attest to the nominee's impact on improving diversity, equity, and inclusion

How does one nominate an organization?

[Download the Nomination Form](#) and complete it. Assemble all materials (Nomination Form and three required letters of support) and scan them into a single PDF document; all materials for a nomination must arrive by email sent to diversity@acgme.org in **one** PDF. Material received in piecemeal or that includes unsigned letters will not be accepted.

How will nominations be judged?

Awards Committee reviewers of the award nominations will consider the extent to which projects/initiatives are:

- Innovative
- Impactful
- Replicable

The goals/mission of the project/initiative being nominated should align with one or more of the following priority areas:

- Increasing recruitment and retention of underrepresented individuals at a single or multiple points in the physician pathway from pre-medical to faculty member
- Assurance of inclusive, equitable, and civil learning environments
- Growth of diversity within a particular specialty



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Who should be contacted with questions about the nomination process?

Email any questions to diversity@acgme.org.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be received by March 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central. Nominations received after that date/time will not be accepted.