Every year, the Office for Equity and Diversity presents an **Equity and Diversity Outstanding Unit Award** to a University of Minnesota campus, college, department or unit. The award honors transformational equity and diversity work that both demonstrates outstanding leadership in equity and diversity, and is collaborative, sustainable, and linked to the stated mission and vision of the group.

For the first time in the award’s history, the Office for Equity and Diversity is accepting applications for the 2012 Outstanding Unit Award. We invite your submission by Friday, October 5, 2012, no later than 4:30 p.m.

**Application Overview**

Groups should respond to the following items:

- Name of office, department, college or academic department
- Contact person (name, title, email, phone number)
- Describe the transformational equity and diversity work being done at your campus, college, department or unit. This work should demonstrate outstanding leadership in equity and diversity that is **collaborative, sustainable, and linked to the stated mission and vision of the group.**
- Outline how your group is measuring and evaluating this work, and how you’ll know these efforts are successful.
- If applicable, describe milestones, successes or measurable outcomes resulting from the work.

Submit your application electronically to Barb Chapin (chapi001@umn.edu) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 5, 2012. You may also contact her with any application questions.

**Definition of diversity**

In preparing your application, please refer to OED’s definition of equity and diversity as outlined at [diversity.umn.edu/AboutOED](http://diversity.umn.edu/AboutOED):

It is our responsibility as an institution—as part of our commitment to creating a welcoming and affirming climate—to serve and support the following individuals and groups:

- People of color, including underrepresented groups and new immigrant populations
- People with both visible and invisible disabilities
- Women
- People of various gender and sexual identities and expressions
- First-generation students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

We also address issues of access and climate for individuals who might encounter barriers based on their religious expression, age, national origin, ethnicity, or veteran status. Furthermore, we recognize the importance of working with people who claim more than one of the above identities.