History and Purpose

“We should all know that diversity makes a rich tapestry. All the threads are equal in value no matter their color.” – Maya Angelou

The University Women of Color (UWOC) Tapestry Award is granted to those that help create a thriving campus community where diversity in the widest sense is welcomed and supported. The selection committee particularly seeks efforts that affect the campus climate for women students, faculty, and staff of color.

While many view the ideal model of American society as being that of a "melting pot," an alternative metaphor is that of a tapestry. A tapestry allows all people to come together to create something stronger, greater and more vivid than each person’s individual contributions, but still provides opportunities to recognize individuals for their own gifts and talents. With that vision in mind, the University Women of Color Council renamed the Barceló Award the UWOC Tapestry Award in Fall of 2007.

Dr. Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, Ph.D. served the University of Minnesota in several roles: as the first Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity from 2006-2010, the Associate Vice President for Multicultural and Academic Affairs from 1996-2001, and chair of the Chicano Studies Department from 1999-2001. Once the only Chicana student at the University of Iowa, Rusty has since become one of the nation’s most highly respected authorities on equity and diversity in higher education, and is currently the President of Northern New Mexico College. Her vision of the multicultural university focuses on the importance of building coalitions to foster an inclusive and diverse campus environment.

The Rusty Barceló Award was initially established in 2002 to acknowledge individual efforts to create a positive campus climate for women and particularly, women of color. In fall 2004, after consulting with Dr. Barceló regarding her focus on collaboration, cooperation, and action in advancing the goals of inclusiveness and diversity, the award was refined and re-titled as the Barceló Collaborative Multicultural Projects Grant. In fall 2007 Dr. Barceló announced that she would move responsibility for the award to the University Women of Color Council, where it was renamed the Tapestry Award.

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To request this document in alternative formats, please contact University Women of Color at uwoc@umn.edu.

Updated March 10, 2015
Sponsors
University Women of Color and the Office for Equity and Diversity.

Recognition
A one-time $500 award will be given to the recipient(s).

Deadline
4:30 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2015

Eligibility
University of Minnesota staff, faculty and students are eligible to apply. Students may be undergraduate or graduate students or students enrolled in continuing education programs.

Selection Criteria
Nomination materials are evaluated based on nomination narrative and letter of support documenting outstanding contributions to equity and diversity, including the degree to which the person’s involvement has addressed and affected the campus climate for women students, faculty and staff of color.

Selection Committee
Committee appointed by the University Women of Color Council comprised of Council members and additional faculty, staff and/or students.

Nomination Process
University of Minnesota students, staff or faculty may make nominations. Applicants can also self-nominate. Individuals nominated for previous Barceló Grants and/or Tapestry Awards but not selected may be re-nominated in subsequent years. Nominations must include the following items:

• One letter of nomination or narrative describing how the nominee meets the criteria that addresses the following (no more than 5 pages):
  1. Briefly describe the applicant’s involvement with equity and diversity at the University of Minnesota.
  2. Elaborate on a project or program the applicant worked on which has ties to the University and promotes equity and diversity. Incorporate the following points:
    • Project or program description including specific contributions of the applicant and the colleges, offices or groups they worked with.
    • Objective: what challenges or needs did the applicant address by working with the project or program?
    • How does the applicant’s work support the values of equity and diversity?
• One letter of support
• Nominee’s resume or curriculum vitae
• Brief bio of the nominee to be used for publicity purposes if applicant is selected as an award recipient (no more than 100 words).

Submit nomination materials to:

Electronic submissions:

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Updated March 10, 2015
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
University Women of Color (UWOC)
Tapestry Award

Please email a PDF version of your application to uwoc@umn.edu.

Paper submissions:
Women’s Center
c/o Uyenthi Tran Myhre
54 Appleby Hall
128 Pleasant St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Campus Delivery Code: 3503E
Fax: 612-625-9682

For questions or additional information: uwoc@umn.edu.

UWOC Mission Statement
Women of color at the University of Minnesota play a vital role in the advancement of the mission of the institution as a whole. University Women of Color (UWOC) and sponsors events and gatherings and engages in advocacy that creates a space for all women of color within the University to feel valued, supported, respected, and connected.