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NPCC Promotes Excellence in Management – and Give Away \$60,000 in Prize Money

Launch of 2016 New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards Includes Streamlined, More Accessible Application

(New York, April 5, 2016) – New York area nonprofits have a chance to compete for \$60,000 in prize money and scholarships to Columbia Business School's nonprofit management courses in a program that recognizes best management. Today, the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC) launched the 2016 New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards program, which provides area nonprofits with an opportunity to share best practices and receive expert feedback to strengthen their ability to meet their mission.

“New York and the suburbs depend on effective, innovative nonprofits to work on problems ranging from hungry families to struggling schools,” said **Lorie Slutsky, president of The New York Community Trust**, one of the region's leading funders of nonprofits. “The Nonprofit Excellence Awards program rewards those organizations that show the value of strong management.”

In a time where nonprofits are being asked to do more with less, the Awards provide nonprofits with an opportunity to assess their best practices and share innovative management strategies. Now in its tenth year, the Awards program has attracted close to 700 applicants from across the city and its suburbs. The Awards recognize outstanding management practices in eight key performance areas developed by NPCC. The 2016 application deadline is May 20.

The Awards have been revamped for 2016 to make it easier for all nonprofits, including those with smaller budgets and staff, to apply. The Awards now include a one-page assessment of management practices, resources and year-round NPCC workshops to improve practices and an opportunity to compete for prize and scholarship money. A committee of more than 30 experts selects the winning nonprofits after a three-stage process that includes a thorough review of each organization's management practices and detailed feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. In a survey of past applicants, 97% found the program helpful in improving their organization's management.

“We know that nonprofits need more than passion to achieve their mission – they need practical support to survive, and thrive, in the economic and social times we're in,” said **Sharon Stapel, president of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee (NPCC)**. “NPCC hosts these Awards every year to create an opportunity to organizations to learn from and with each other and to provide nonprofits with the support and resources they need. As a result, nonprofits have a stronger impact on the people and causes that they serve.”

Since the first Nonprofit Excellence Awards in 2006, 29 organizations have won prizes. A list

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of past winners is available at <https://www.npccny.org/nonprofit-excellence-awards/past-winners/>. In past years, one organization each from the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island has won. Three winning organizations are based in Westchester, six in Brooklyn, and 17 in Manhattan. No group from Long Island has won yet.

The eight areas of management excellence are: results and impact, governance, financial management, diversity and inclusion, human resources, information technology, communications, and fundraising and resource development.

Organizations considering applying are encouraged to attend one of five Application Clinics, where they can ask questions about the Awards and learn about the application and selection processes. Registration is required at <https://www.npccny.org/nonprofit-excellence-awards/how-it-works/application-clinics/> to attend one of the following clinics or to join the webinar:

April 15, 2016 – NPCC, Manhattan
April 20, 2016 – Adelphi University, Long Island
April 21, 2016 – Hostos Community College, The Bronx
April 22, 2016 – Webinar
May 4, 2016 – NPCC, Manhattan
May 6, 2016 – The Warner Library, Westchester

NPCC created the Nonprofit Excellence Awards in 2006 and manages the program in collaboration with The New York Community Trust and Philanthropy New York. WNYC sponsors the program, which is also supported by The Clark Foundation, RSM US LLP, and Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise.

“In this era when nonprofit management and fiscal health are so much in the news as the result of some very high-profile scandals, the message and impact of the Nonprofit Excellence Awards has never been more important,” said **Philanthropy New York President Ronna Brown**. “Donors can look at the model of excellence associated with the Awards as a critical set of best practices all nonprofits can work toward.”

Three winning organizations will be honored at the Awards presentation in November, 2016. Each will receive a cash award, recognition by WNYC, and tuition scholarships for the Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise.

The 2016 application guidelines, readiness assessment, application, and NPCC’s guiding *Eight Key Areas of Nonprofit Excellence* document are available online at <https://www.npccny.org/nonprofit-excellence-awards/>.

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The **Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York** (NPCC) serves as the voice and information source for New York nonprofits. An umbrella organization representing and serving over 1,400 member nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations throughout New York City, Long Island, and Westchester, NPCC is the largest such organization in the New York City area. It represents all types of nonprofits on sector-wide issues. Established in 1984, NPCC informs and connects nonprofit leaders, saves nonprofits money, helps them manage and govern themselves better, and protects and strengthens the entire nonprofit community’s relations with all levels of government. (<http://www.npccny.org>)

Since 1924, **The New York Community Trust** has been the home of charitable New Yorkers who share a passion for the City and the suburbs—and who are committed to improving them. The Trust supports an array of effective nonprofits that help make the City a vital and secure place to live, learn, work and play, while building permanent resources for the future. The New York Community Trust ended 2015 with assets of \$2.5 billion in more than 2,000 charitable funds, and made grants totaling \$165 million. The Trust welcomes new donors.

(www.nycommunitytrust.org)

Philanthropy New York is the primary membership organization for private, family, corporate, and public foundations based in the tri-state New York area. Its 285 member organizations—including some of the leading grantmaking foundations in the world—recognize that a vibrant and well-managed nonprofit sector is fundamental to healthy communities. Collaborating in the Awards provides Philanthropy New York an important opportunity to celebrate management excellence among their members' nonprofit partners, learn from their experience, and help build greater capacity in the sector. Philanthropy New York is the principal professional community of philanthropic foundations based in the New York City region with a mission of enhancing the ability of philanthropists to serve the public good. Philanthropy New York members recognize that without extraordinary grantees, there would be no effective grant-making programs.

(www.philanthropynewyork.org)

From its state-of-the-art studios in New York City, **WNYC** is reshaping audio for a new generation of listeners, with groundbreaking, innovative radio programs and podcasts that include *Radiolab*; *Freakonomics Radio*; *On the Media*; *Here's the Thing with Alec Baldwin*; *Death, Sex & Money*; and *New Tech City*, among others. With an urban vibrancy and a global perspective, WNYC is America's most listened-to public radio station and the home to an award-winning newsroom of 70 journalists. (www.wnyc.org)

Columbia Business School Executive Education Programs in Social Enterprise are designed to address the specific needs of nonprofit professionals at various stages of their executive development. The Senior Leaders Program for Nonprofit Professionals and the Developing Leaders Program help professionals develop the necessary skills to help their organizations today and in the years to come. (<http://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/execed/social-enterprise>)

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