



## Student Innovator Awards for 2017

### ANNOUNCEMENT

COSEBOC is proud to announce the launch of the 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards. These awards will be given to male students of color from Texas high schools who have been innovators, creators, or game-changers in their schools or communities, whose contributions have been both visible and impactful, and whose acts and deeds of service sought to make their world a better place. This award exemplifies the COSEBOC mission to promote a new narrative that continually advances the affirmative development of boys and young men of color and emphasizes their assets, potential, and promise. This award also reflects COSEBOC efforts to consciously include youth in its events and activities, both to affirm them and to allow them to authentically express their concerns, struggles, hopes, dreams, and aspirations before an audience of adults who care, advocate, and educate them.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards are open to male students of color (African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic, Native American, Multi-racial) enrolled in grades 9 to 12 in any district, charter, alternative, vocational/technical, faith-based, or private school in Texas. Applications from students attending schools outside of Texas will **not** be considered.

COSEBOC is interested in applications from student attending schools that encourage the affirmative development of young men of color and align with the COSEBOC Standards. However, we also encourage applications from young men attending underperforming or struggling schools and schools operating in non-traditional or alternative settings.

Educators, agency staff, community leaders, and others interested in nominating an eligible applicant can send an email to COSEBOC at [studentaward@coseboc.org](mailto:studentaward@coseboc.org) with the applicant's name and contact information. COSEBOC will notify the student that they have been nominated for this award and send them this application package. An adult **cannot** complete the application for a student.



## Student Innovator Awards for 2017

### APPLICATION CONTENT

To be considered for a 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Award, a student **must** complete a written application and submit the completed application to COSEBOC prior to the application deadline.

**Part 1** of the application asks for information about the students including their name, contact information, race/ethnicity, age, name of school and grade level.

**Part 2** of the application asks the student to answer three questions –

Question 1: How have you contributed to improving the education or affirmative development of your peers in your school or helped others in your community?

In addressing this question, students can describe what they have accomplished through their leadership or participation in new or existing programs, their work with individuals or groups, or their writing, music, or other artistic and creative products. This work can occur in school or outside of school.

Question 2: How has your performance in school demonstrated excellence and served as a role model for your peers?

In addressing this question, students can discuss how they have improved their grades or performance in class over time, awards or honors they have received in school or for their schoolwork, or their accomplishments in extracurricular activities.

Question 3: How do you hope to make your community and the world a better place in the future for yourself, your family, your peers, and others?

In addressing this question, students can discuss their plans to continue and expand upon existing work, career plans, or community service plans. Students are encouraged to be both ambitious and realistic in describing their plans.

In addition to their written application, students have the OPTION of submitting letters of support from up to three adults or peers. These letters should explain how the student meets one or more of the three selection criteria for the award.



## Student Innovator Awards for **2017**

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Students are encouraged to use the attached Word document template as their application. All items and questions must be completed. However, COSEBOC will accept an application that students create so long as it includes all the items and questions listed in the attached template.

Applications and all letters of support must be submitted as email attachments. Emails should be sent to [studentaward@coseboc.org](mailto:studentaward@coseboc.org) by the application deadline. Letters of support may be submitted separately from the applications. However, the letters should clearly identify the name and school of the student. If more than three letters of support are submitted, only the first three will be considered.

The revised deadline for submitting the application is **5 pm (CST) on March 22, 2017.**

### **REVIEW PROCESS**

COSEBOC will organize a blue-ribbon panel to select recipients for the 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards. The panel will include educators, community leaders, and young men of color who have completed high school. This panel will work with COSEBOC staff to review all completed applications submitted by eligible students. Based on this review, the panel will select a small number (8-12) finalists for further consideration. The panel will conduct an interview by phone or teleconference with each finalist and select the 5 winners of the 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards. Award winners, finalists, and other applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process in early April 2017.



## Student Innovator Awards for 2017

### SELECTION CRITERIA

COSEBOC and the blue-ribbon panel will take the following criteria into account in reviewing the application, letters of support, and other information to select the recipients of the 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards.

Criteria 1: Evidence that the student has promoted changes in their school or community to improve the education and affirmative development of their peers, particularly other male students of color, or helped others in the community.

Criteria 2: Evidence that the student has demonstrated excellence in school and served as a role model for their peers.

Criteria 3: Evidence that the student has expressed a commitment to continue to serve as an innovator and change agent in the future.

Students should keep these criteria in mind when they respond to the three application questions.

### AWARD WINNERS

COSEBOC will select up to 5 recipients for the 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards. Each award winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. In addition, Award winners will be invited to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual COSEBOC Gathering of Leaders in Austin, Texas on April 26-28, 2017 (travel costs covered). During the Gathering, the Award winners will be honored at an Award Breakfast. In addition, the Award winners will participate in the Youth Gathering activities that will occur during the Annual Gathering.

### QUESTIONS

If you have questions about eligibility, applications, the selection process, or other aspects of the 2017 COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards, please send those questions in writing by email to [studentaward@coseboc.org](mailto:studentaward@coseboc.org). COSEBOC staff will respond as soon as possible.



## Student Innovator Awards for 2017

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AWARD WINNERS

Huston-Tillotson University, one of the local sponsors of the 11<sup>th</sup> COSEBOC Gathering of Leaders, has volunteered to match any of the 2017 COSEBOC School Innovator Award scholarships. This means that 2017 Award winners who decide to attend Huston-Tillotson University will receive scholarships of \$2,000 – \$1,000 from COSEBOC and \$1,000 from HT. This decision further demonstrates the strong commitment of HT to the mission of COSEBOC to advance the affirmative development of young men of color.

Huston-Tillotson University, Austin's oldest institution of higher learning with roots dating to 1875, has a diverse population that is majority African American. As a historically black institution, HT nurtures a legacy of leadership and excellence in education, connecting knowledge, power, passion, and values. The University offers master's and associate's degrees in addition to Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in more than 19 areas of study.

Huston-Tillotson University is well-placed to support the winners of the COSEBOC Student Innovator Awards due to its new Career Pathways Initiative. This Initiative will help enhance students' career readiness and provide a more seamless path from college to career. Huston-Tillotson University was one of 24 colleges and universities selected to receive grants to plan and implement this unique pilot program. The grants were awarded by the United Negro College Fund and funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.