



Pioneer Award for Breaking New Ground (in/with) your CPD Program

Great ideas that you have been able to incorporate into your CPD Program, that are “ground-breaking”, original, game-changing that support sustained improvements in your program do not typically occur by accident (but could be a happy surprise!). This newly renovated award recognizes the pioneer spirit and accomplishments resulting from “out of the box” thinking and creative endeavors, infrastructures, or processes that demonstrate excellence in accomplishing your program goals. Sustainability, replicability, and/or scalability are important considerations as you pave the way for those who will follow, to disseminate and spread the impact to other settings and providers. Recognized endeavors, infrastructures or processes could include, but are not limited to, a creative way to plan educational activities/interventions, how your CPD program is structured, or other creative ways to improve processes relating to continuing education for health professionals within your CPD department or organization.

** The submitted endeavor, infrastructure or process must have been initiated between January 1, 2021 and July 31, 2022 and the submitter must provide some level of analysis to demonstrate effectiveness or impact.*

Examples of Pioneer Award Accomplishments

- Innovative engagement of the healthcare team in planning of activities
- Contemporary way of working with the CME/CE committee
- Cutting edge ways of planning and evaluating CE activities
- Inventive way of incorporating Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity into the overall CME/CE program (comprehensively, not just in CME/CE activities)

Complete Online Application Contents

To be considered complete, please make sure your application includes the following:

- Applicant Information;
- Nominee Information;
- Award narrative & appendix;
- Verification statements that nominees represent the organizations referenced in the application, and that the endeavor, infrastructure or process has not been nominated for another Alliance award given at the same annual conference;
- Nominator Acknowledgment; and
- Submission Agreement.

Award Narrative & Appendix

The narrative and appendix you prepare as part of your application must meet the following criteria for content and formatting:

- Include a description along with supporting documents (acceptable attachments listed below), and should include the following sections:
 - A brief introduction/summary of the endeavor, infrastructure or process
 - How the endeavor, infrastructure or process was funded (to include internal budget allocations, or financial and in-kind support).
 - A brief explanation of what prompted the endeavor, infrastructure or process
 - At the time of the application submission, the endeavor, infrastructure or process must have been sufficiently developed to include a report on the impact of the improvement / creative approach.
 - How the initiative and its various components are linked to the Alliance’s [National Learning Competencies](#)
 - How the endeavor, infrastructure or process (or related improvements) will or can be:
 - Sustained
 - Scaled to a larger group
 - Replicated by the nominee or other providers
 - Why this endeavor, infrastructure or process should be considered as a model for excellence in breaking new ground / creativity.
- Be a maximum of **twelve total pages** (comprised of a narrative of no more than three pages; appendix of no more than six pages), in PDF format with one-inch margins on all sides and no smaller than Arial 11-point font
 - Attachments
 - **REQUIRED: three (3) PAGE MAXIMUM:** Narrative documentation that the endeavor, infrastructure or process described occurred or is occurring (you can submit whatever you want that shows off your Pioneer Spirit). Given that this award is for a groundbreaking approach, graphics and visuals are strongly encouraged.
 - **REQUIRED: two (2) PAGE MAXIMUM:** A description of the “journey”- how the endeavor, infrastructure or process started, how it provided improvement, lessons learned, limitations, and opportunities for future development.
 - **REQUIRED: one (1) PAGE MAXIMUM:** Listing of the roles of each stakeholder in the endeavor, infrastructure or process such as leadership, faculty, and/or staff. If you engaged an outside organization/partner for this endeavor, please describe.
 - **REQUIRED: one (1) PAGE MAXIMUM THAT INCLUDES STATEMENTS INDICATING THE FOLLOWING:**
 - Verification that nominees represent the organizations responsible for the endeavor, infrastructure or process and that its components will occur.
 - Verification that an activity relating to this endeavor, infrastructure or process has not been nominated for another Alliance award given at the same annual conference
 - **OPTIONAL: two (2) PAGE MAXIMUM:** Nominees may submit up to two pages of attachments, which provide additional details related to the endeavor to be considered by the award committee.

Evaluation Criteria

In evaluating nominees in this category, the Selection Panel will consider a number of different aspects, including:

- Completeness of application that clearly demonstrates the award criteria;
- If and how the endeavor, infrastructure or process and its components are linked to the Alliance's National Learning Competencies;
- How the endeavor, infrastructure or process (or related improvements) will or can be sustained, scaled to a larger group, and replicated by the nominee or other providers;
- Status as a model approach (i.e., an approach worthy of being replicated, or concept that can be utilized by others);
- Impact that can be translated to an Annual Conference storyboard and/or publishable manuscript; and
- Lessons learned, limitations and opportunities for future endeavor, infrastructure or process development.

Conflict of Interest Mitigation

Award Selection Panel members, including committee chairs, shall recuse themselves from discussions and decisions involving nominations for which they are an employee of the nominee and/or a covered entity financial supporter of the nomination.

Recognition

The award will be presented to the winning qualified applicant at the 2023 Annual Conference (Feb 6-9, 2023). The winning applicant will receive a plaque, one complimentary annual conference registration, the opportunity to submit an e-poster, and the option to submit an *Almanac* article about the project.