

About the Barefoot and Gardner Awards

The Gardner Institute publicly recognizes postsecondary institutions that have taken active steps to successfully mitigate student performance gaps. The award was created and named by friends and colleagues of Drs. Betsy O. Barefoot and John N. Gardner, the Gardner Institute's co-founders, to recognize and honor their deep commitment and dedication to postsecondary education that expands opportunities for all students.

Every two years, one two-year institution and one four-year institution in the United States will be selected as recipients of the Barefoot & Gardner Award. The award recognizes institutions that, at scale and with strong supporting evidence, demonstrate a deep commitment to expanding educational opportunity and achieving undergraduate success for all learners.

Applications for the award will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. Eastern on July 25, 2025. Please plan and submit accordingly.

Note: Applications must be submitted via the online form: [Barefoot and Gardner Award Form](#)

*Indicates required question

1. Please enter the email address of the person submitting the form*

Section 2 -- General Institution Information

2. Institution Name*

3. Institution City and State*

4. Institution 2023-24 Total undergraduate enrollment as shown on College Navigator.*

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5. Type of Institution *

Mark only one.

☐ 4-year institution

☐ 2-year institution

6. Name(s) of Person(s) Submitting the Form*

7. Email(s) of person(s) submitting the Form*

8. Phone Number(s) for Person(s) Submitting the Form*

9. Job Title(s) for Person(s) Submitting the Form*

Section 4 -- Institutional Narrative

10. In no more than 750 words, please describe the effort(s) the institution has taken to advance, at scale, positive student success outcomes in undergraduate education. How many students are involved? What do(es) the effort(s) entail? What else do you want the reviewers to know?*

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11. In no more than 500 words, please explain what evidence the institution has collected that shows that the effort(s) described in the previous question are leading to more positive outcomes in the undergraduate student experience. In other words, how do you know that the effort(s) is/are working? (You may upload up to 3 artifacts / forms of evidence to support the narrative you provide in response to this question in Section 5 of this application.)

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12. In no more than 300 words, please explain how the institution is working to sustain the effort(s) described in thus far. If there are plans to expand / scale the effort(s) in the future, please share them here.*

13. In no more than 200 words, please share anything else about the effort(s) that you want the reviewers to know.*

Section 5 -- Supporting Evidence

14. Please send to Katie Locke locke@gardnerinstitute.org up to 3 forms of evidence/materials supporting the outcomes you shared in Section 4 of this submission so that the reviewers understand the impact and scale of your efforts. You may also share 2 additional forms of materials germane to the effort(s) you described in your narrative. Note: The collective file size for your 3-5 uploads may not exceed 10 MB, so please plan accordingly. If the nomination does not come directly from the CEO or their designee, a letter of support from the CEO must be submitted.*

Mark only one circle.

- ☐ Supporting evidence submitted to locke@gardnerinstitute.org
- ☐ Other

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