

MIT AWARDS CONVOCATION

The Karl Taylor Compton Award

The Karl Taylor Compton Prize is the highest award presented by the Institute to students and student organizations in recognition of excellent achievements in citizenship and devotion to the welfare of MIT.

Award Criteria

Nominators should describe how the nominees' unique contributions to citizenship and the welfare of the MIT community have been demonstrated, providing evidence of the positive impact of the nominees' contributions in these areas. Nominations should describe:

- The identified need addressing and embracing citizenship and welfare that motivated the nominees' efforts;
- How the nominee incorporated MIT values, culture, and principles into their efforts addressing citizenship and community welfare, demonstrating a commitment to [MIT values](#);
- In what ways the nominee collaborated with stakeholders, including students, faculty, and staff;
- Evidence of positive impact, goal achievement or outcome realization related to citizenship and welfare;

Recipients of this award must be currently enrolled students and student organizations in good standing with MIT.

Citizenship and Welfare to the MIT Community Defined

Citizenship and welfare to the MIT community are understood in the context of the [MIT Values Statement](#) and [MIT's Strategic Plan for Belonging, Achievement, and Composition](#). From these documents, citizenship and welfare reflect a community in which individuals are actively "striving to cultivate a community in which people feel connected to each other, share a sense of purpose, and support each individual's freedom to be themselves and respectfully express their views. This is achieved through empathy, civil discourse, inclusion, and engagement. All while contributing to MIT's collective wellbeing."

Compton Prize Selection Process

The Compton Award is presented annually when a recipient is identified who fully meets the criteria stated above. Up to two awards may be presented each year. Previous recipients are not eligible for this award, nor will self-nominations be considered.

The award is presented annually at the MIT Awards Convocation. In a given year, if it is determined that nominees do not meet the stated criteria for this award, an award will not be given out that year.

Nomination Review Committee

The Compton Prize Review Committee is comprised of:

- Senior associate dean for residential education (co-chair)
- Senior associate dean for diversity and community involvement (co-chair)
- Senior associate dean for student support and wellbeing
- Senior associate dean for experiential learning
- Two members of the faculty (possibly having served on the Committee on Student Life)
- Associate dean and director, SOLE

Nominations are reviewed to ensure they meet basic criteria:

- The nomination statement is written by someone other than the nominee.
- Two statements of support by members of the MIT community are included in the nomination.

Applicants are vetted to ensure they are in good standing at the Institute. The vetting process includes confirmation of eligibility by:

- The applicant's academic advisor
- The undergraduate academic officer or the graduate academic administrator in the applicant's department
- The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Nominations that meet the basic requirements are reformatted as PDFs and a nomination packet is put in a Dropbox folder and forwarded to the review committee. All nomination materials are confidential and will be noted as such. Committee members review nominations independently using a nomination rubric.

Review committee meets to identify 2-4 finalists and submits finalist nominations to the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and Dean for Student Life (VCSL), and the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate and Graduate Education (VCUGE).

The Chancellor, VCSL, and VCUGE review and discuss the finalists with the Compton Prize Committee co-chairs. The Chancellor, VCSL, and VCUGE then identify the Compton Prize recipient(s) and send their name(s) to the committee co-chairs.

Questions? Contact awards-compton@mit.edu.