

## 2026 ACU Annual Conference Award Nomination Form

The Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) is honored to represent clinicians, administrators, advocates, and others who are dedicated to improving access to quality healthcare for underserved populations. During our Annual Conference, ACU will give special acknowledgment to individuals and organizations in the field that stand out for their commitment to elevating care, clinicians, and communities. Please submit your nomination by Sunday, June 1st, 2026 for the following awards to be presented at ACU's 2026 Annual Conference\* on July 26-29, 2026:

**Clinician of the Year:** The clinician of the year represents the heart of our work and has demonstrated their commitment to improving the health of underserved communities through compassion and excellence in health care delivery.

**Congressional Champion:** This award recognizes a member of Congress who serves as a champion for increased access to care, improvements to health care delivery, and support for the healthcare workforce.

**Marc Wetherhorn Advocate of the Year:** This award recognizes a clinician, administrator, patient, or student whose advocacy efforts have contributed to improvements to policies and/or systems that impact the health of underserved populations.

**Organizational Excellence:** This award recognizes organizations that have implemented innovative and effective strategies to improve health care in underserved communities. Strategies may include but are not limited to efforts to sustain a skilled and capable workforce and programs and collaborations to increase access to services and improve patient outcomes.

**Excellence in Behavioral Health:** This award recognizes a clinician or administrator who has demonstrated commitment, vision, and excellence in their work to improve access to and quality of behavioral healthcare for patients in medically underserved areas. The winner of this award will receive free registration to the Behavioral Health Leadership Forum in addition to free conference registration.

**Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award:** For those studying or pursuing training in pursuit of a health profession, including medicine, nursing, midwifery, dentistry, pharmacy, behavioral health, and allied health fields, at any stage from undergraduate study through clinical training. Eligible nominees have gone beyond the requirements of their studies or training to demonstrate initiative and leadership in addressing the healthcare needs of underserved communities, whether through organizing, advocacy, direct service, innovation in care delivery, or actively shaping programs and challenging systems to drive measurable change.

ACU encourages you to complete a version of your nomination for your records. You can access and download a blank form [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Narine Hovnanian at [nhovnanian@clinicians.org](mailto:nhovnanian@clinicians.org).

\*Note: All award recipients will receive free conference registration.

### 1. Your Name

**First name**

**Last name**

### 2. Your Email Address

**Email address**

### 3. Your Organization

4. Your Job Title

5. For which award category are you nominating a candidate?

- Clinician of the Year
- Congressional Champion
- Marc Wetherhorn Advocate of the Year
- Organizational Excellence
- Excellence in Behavioral Health
- Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award

## 2026 ACU Annual Conference Award Nomination Form

### Nominee Information

6. Nominee's Name

7. Nominee's Email Address

8. Nominee's Job Title

9. How do you know the candidate?

10. Please describe in 350 words or less the qualities you feel make this person or organization deserving of recognition this year.

11. If chosen, will the nominee be able to attend ACU's 2026 Annual Conference? Note: All award recipients will be given conference registration at no cost to them.

Yes

No

## 2026 ACU Annual Conference Award Nomination Form

### Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award Nominee Information

To be eligible for the Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award, the nominee must meet all of the following requirements:

- Is currently training toward a career in the health professions, including medicine, nursing, midwifery, dentistry, pharmacy, behavioral health, and allied health fields, at any stage from undergraduate study through clinical training, including residency and fellowships
- As part of their training, has had direct experience working in a community or farmworker health center or mobile medical outreach team
- Is not the Executive Director/CEO/President of the organization

#### Award Criteria

- The nominee consistently goes above and beyond their training experience, evidencing their leadership capabilities through organizing, advocacy, direct service, innovation in care delivery, or actively shaping programs and challenging systems to drive measurable change.
- The nominee's educational or career path centers underserved communities.
- The nominee has lived experience that is reflective of the populations and communities they train in and serve
- The nominee aspires to serve in a community-based health center setting.

#### 12. Nominee's Name

#### 13. Nominee's Email Address

#### 14. Nominee's Organizational Affiliation

#### 15. Nominee's Job Title

#### 16. How do you know the candidate?

17. What profession/discipline is the nominee training in?

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Pharmacy
- Behavioral Health
- Allied Health Professions

18. What type of training is the nominee pursuing?

- Certificate Program
- Undergraduate ( AAS, BS, etc)
- Graduate
- Residency
- Fellowship

19. In the space below, please tell us about your nominee and describe why they should be considered for the Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award, given the eligibility requirements and award selection criteria. Please provide a few specific examples that illustrate the nominee's accomplishments, and evidence of their strong leadership capabilities and potential.

20. Upload the nominee's resume/CV.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

21. If chosen, will the nominee be able to attend ACU's 2026 Annual Conference? Note: All award recipients will be given conference registration at no cost to them.

- Yes
- No