

## Council on Research Awards

The Council on Research (COR) administers two award programs: the APLU Public Impact Research Award and a council-level award specific to COR. Further information regarding the COR award will be provided later this year.

### 2026 APLU Public Impact Research (PIR) Award

The APLU Public Impact Research Award recognizes an APLU member who has implemented one or more impactful **Public Impact Research** (PIR) efforts that have produced exceptional outcomes. PIR is a broad term used to describe how university research improves lives and serves society at the local, regional, national, and global levels. Applications were due Friday, June 26, 2026.

PIR is a broad and inclusive term encompassing multi-disciplinary research, community-engaged research, research grand challenges, research-practice partnerships, participatory research, translational and use-inspired research, co-production, and other approaches.

Criteria for the Award include: connection to public need, leveraged resources, evidence of impact, and sustainability. Use the menus below to learn the submission criteria.

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**Award Objectives**

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**Nomination Criteria**

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## Nomination and Submission Instructions

Self-nominations are welcome (i.e., the senior research officer may nominate her/his own university). In fact, self-nominations are expected to be the norm, given the types of information required to substantiate the nomination (see below). The nomination must be submitted by the institution's senior research officer, and only one nomination per institution or multi-institution consortium is accepted.

Nomination cover page, which must include:

- The institution being nominated
- Name of the program being nominated
- Name, title, affiliation, and contact information of the nominator (senior research officer)
- A statement to the following effect: "If selected, the SRO of the nominated (or for multi-institution submissions, 'prime') institution agrees to be available to accept the award and present the initiative at the subsequent APLU annual meeting (or agrees to arrange for a suitable institutional substitute)." For this award cycle, the APLU PIR award will be bestowed during the association-wide Awards session at the 2026 APLU Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, between November 15-17.

Program description section (7 pages total), which must include:

- Overview of the initiative (not to exceed 1 page)
  - Brief abstract of initiative suitable for public audiences
  - Identify the initiative leader(s) and their roles (Director, PI, etc.)
- Narrative (not to exceed 6 pages): A description of the program objectives, the coalition of stakeholders involved, methodology, and impact of the initiative with sufficient information to assess the award criteria:
  - **Connection to Public Need**
  - **Leveraged Resources**
  - **Evidence of Impact**
  - Sustainability
- Testimonials/Endorsements (does not count against page limits):
  - One (1) letter of endorsement from the president/chancellor/rector of the participating institution, or the prime institution of a multi-institution collaboration

- If a cross-institutional effort, one (1) letter of endorsement from each non-prime participating organization's leadership at the Senior Research Officer level or higher.
- No more than two (2) additional letters of support may be included from persons impacted by the initiative or from other public/community leaders who can substantiate the initiative's impact

All materials must be compiled into a single .pdf file and submitted electronically to the APLU staff at **cor@aplu.org** by **11:59 local time on Friday, June 26, 2026**, using an email title starting with [APLU PIR Award Application] followed by the submitting institution's name.

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