seed
COALITION

ANNUAL AWARDS

2026

APRIL 9

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

Welcome!

To our honorees and guests,

On behalf of the board and staff of Seed Coalition, congratulations to each of our honorees for their steadfast commitment to their local communities this year.

Living an engaged life is not for the faint of heart. The events of the past year, especially here in Minnesota, have reminded us how much our communities are being called upon to support one another. This need for solidarity is felt most acutely by those who are disadvantaged or marginalized. The individuals who commit themselves to building a more just and equitable world, along with the colleges and universities that support them, deserve every commendation.

When our celebration today ends, we will return to our communities and continue bending systems toward justice, engaging with our neighbors, and building a better world together. That work is most impactful when it happens block by block, door by door. That is where we see the true potential of our communities and build the momentum for lasting change.

Thank you for gathering with us today. May you leave here with renewed energy, drawing strength from the remarkable peers around you who are equally committed to this work.

With Respect,
Rob Barron

The Awards

Student Civic Leadership Award

recognizes a student or group who model civic responsibility and leadership through initiative, collaboration, and community building, integrating civic engagement into their college experience.

Civic Educator Award

recognizes a faculty or staff member who models civic responsibility by supporting students' civic development and strengthening a culture of engagement on campus through their teaching, mentorship, or leadership.

Community Partner Award

recognizes a community-based partner or organization that enriches both educational and community outcomes through sustained, reciprocal partnerships with a college or university.

Community Collaboration Award

recognizes projects co-created by campus and community partners that showcase meaningful collaboration and exemplify the campus's civic and community engagement, contributing to both learning and community well-being.



PROGRAM

Welcome
Dr. Susan Rundell Singer, President, St. Olaf College

Introduction
Dr. Anne Harris, Board Chair, President, Grinnell College

Presentation of Awards
Rob Barron, Executive Director, Seed Coalition
Dr. Anne Harris, Board Chair, President, Grinnell College

Musical Welcome

Presidents' Student Civic Leadership Awards
Reflection from Katie Steinlage, nominated by Wartburg College

Presidents' Civic Educator Awards
Reflection from C. Scott Cooper, nominated by Metro State University

Musical Interlude

Presidents' Community Partner Awards
Reflection from Jessi Balk, nominated by Drake University

Presidents' Community Collaboration Awards
Reflection from Zinnia Koy, nominated by Augsburg University

Celebrate and Connect
Take time to chat and congratulate our awardees!

To view a full list of all awardees and a description of their accomplishments, please scan this QR code:

Thank you to St. Olaf Brass Quintet and the St. Olaf Music for Social Impact Singers for todays performances!

2025-2026 Members

- Allen College
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Anoka Technical College
- Augsburg University
- Bemidji State University
- Bethel University
- Buena Vista University
- Central College
- Central Lakes College
- College of St. Benedict and St. John's University
- College of St. Scholastica
- Concordia College
- Concordia University, St. Paul
- Dakota County Technical College
- Drake University
- Grand View University
- Grinnell College
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Hamline University
- Inver Hills Community College
- Loras College
- Luther College
- Macalester College
- Metro State University
- Minnesota State Community & Technical College
- Minnesota West Community & Technical College
- Morningside University
- Mount Mercy University
- Normandale Community College
- North Hennepin Community College
- Northwest Technical College
- Simpson College
- South Central College
- Southwest Minnesota State University
- St. Catherine University
- St. Olaf College
- University of Iowa
- University of Minnesota Crookston
- University of Minnesota Duluth
- University of Minnesota Morris
- University of Northern Iowa
- Wartburg College
- Winona State University

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