

HLC Awards 2026

The Humanities Learning Center (HLC) is a group of dedicated Delta College faculty and staff working alongside community partners whose mission is to bring the relevance and vitality of the humanities to the Great Lakes Bay Region.* This group is coordinated by Dr. Michael Evans, Associate Professor of History. For more information, contact hlc@delta.edu.

The humanities may be best described as the study of the human experience. Through exploration of history, philosophy, literature, film/theater, religious studies, music, languages, and politics, we are offered a deeper understanding of ourselves and others. Knowledge of the human experience inspires us by allowing us to connect to the greatest minds and talents of the ages.

Each year, the HLC desires to recognize and award those individuals and groups who preserve and foster the humanities in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Below are the award categories.

Outstanding Humanities Organization Award

Purpose: Given annually by the Humanities Learning Center, this award recognizes organizations that are actively engaged in the humanities (activities that relate to culture, heritage, identity, or other humanities subjects) in their communities.

Criteria:

Nominators should address how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1) Significant contributions to or support of humanities programs (programs that relate to culture, heritage, identity, or other humanities subjects) in their communities.

2) Nominee must be based in mid-Michigan, or produce humanities scholarship about mid-Michigan.

How to Nominate: A nomination may be made by any individual or organization, and organizations may self-nominate. Previous nominees are welcome to reapply. Previous winners can be re-nominated after ten years.

To nominate an organization for the Outstanding Humanities Organization Award, create a nomination clearly demonstrating how the nominee has met the above criteria.

Humanities Educator of the Year Award

Purpose: Given annually by the Humanities Learning Center, this award recognizes teachers/educators at all levels throughout the community. Students, teachers, educational administrators, and others have an opportunity through this award program to demonstrate their appreciation and support of teachers/educators whose professional record reflects a strong commitment to excellence in teaching the humanities.

Criteria:

Nominators should address how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1) Conducts classroom activities and projects that promote understanding and application of the humanities.

2) Demonstrates success in engaging students in the humanities (subjects including history, philosophy, literature, film/theater, religious studies, law, music, languages, communication, or politics).

3) Nominee must work or reside in mid-Michigan.

How to Nominate: A nomination may be made by any individual or organization, and individuals may self-nominate. Previous nominees are welcome to reapply. Previous winners can be re-nominated after ten years.

To nominate an individual for the Humanities Educator of the Year Award, write a piece clearly demonstrating how the nominee has met the above criteria.

Humanities Scholar Award

Purpose: Given annually by the Humanities Learning Center, this award recognizes scholars who have demonstrated excellence in the academic pursuit of the humanities (matters relating to culture, heritage, identity, or other humanities subjects).

Criteria:

1) Nominators must write a statement explaining why they are nominating the scholar for the award, indicating how they believe the nominee has demonstrated excellence in the academic pursuit of the humanities (matters relating to culture, heritage, identity, or other humanities subjects).

2) Examples of humanities scholarship include: writings (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, etc.), digital projects (blogs, websites, digital archive, podcasts, etc.), presentations (museum exhibitions, public speeches, storytelling, etc.), or performances (musical compositions, theater presentations, etc.) that relate to culture, heritage, identity, or other humanities subjects.

3) If possible, a sample of the scholar's work should be attached with the nomination statement.

4) Nominee must work or reside in mid-Michigan, or produce humanities scholarship about mid-Michigan.

How to Nominate: A nomination may be made by any individual or organization, and individuals may self-nominate. Previous nominees are welcome to reapply. Previous winners can be re-nominated after ten years.

To nominate an individual for the Humanities Scholar Award, write a piece clearly demonstrating how the nominee has met the above criteria.

Nominations are encouraged for scholars in both 'traditional' and digital formats.

Emerging Humanities Scholar (Delta Students) Award

Purpose: Given annually by the Humanities Learning Center, this award recognizes Delta College students who have demonstrated excellence in the academic pursuit of the humanities.

Criteria:

1) Nominators (who must be Delta College faculty members) write a nomination statement explaining why they are nominating the student for the award, indicating how they believe the nominee has demonstrated excellence in the academic pursuit of the humanities.

2) Examples of humanities scholarship include: writings (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, etc.), digital projects (blogs, websites, digital archive, podcasts, etc.), presentations (museum exhibitions, public speeches, storytelling, etc.), or performances (musical compositions, theater presentations, etc.) that relate to culture, heritage, identity, or other humanities subjects.

3) A sample of the student's work should be attached with the nomination statement.

4) Nominee must be a current Delta College student or one who has graduated within the past two years.

How to Nominate: A nomination may be made by any faculty member at Delta College. To nominate an individual for the Emerging Humanities Scholar Award, create a nomination clearly demonstrating how the nominee has met the above criteria.

* The awards are open to those who live and work in the following counties: Bay, Midland, Saginaw. We also welcome nominations from adjacent counties, namely, Arenac, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Tuscola.