The Royal Society Athena Prize 2020

Instructions for nominators
The Royal Society Athena Prize (‘the Athena Prize’) is awarded biennially (in even years) and recognises teams “working in UK academic and research communities, who have contributed most to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) within their communities.”

The Athena Prize aims to:
- Recognise the efforts of teams who have significantly contributed to good practice and the advancement of diversity in STEM
- Recognise projects or initiatives that benefit the wider STEM community
- Inspire others to provide leadership and innovation in diversity issues.

The Athena Prize judging panel will consider the difference that an initiative or project has made to engendering and supporting a culture of diversity and inclusion within STEM institutions and organisations. The judging panel will consider the following:
- Progress and impact – what is different as a result?
- Sustainability – how will it be maintained?
- Innovation and inspiration – what is new?
- Transferability – how could it be transferred to other STEM institutions or organisations?

Nominations should include:
- Name of nominator. The nominator should be a senior stakeholder/supporter who has not been directly involved with the project/initiative. The nominator can be based within the same institution/organisation as the candidate team or in a partner institution/organisation.
- Full name and address of the candidate team.
- Supporting statement by the nominator to explain the suitability of the candidate team for the Athena Prize.
- Details of the project or initiative (this section to be completed by the candidate team).
- The names of two referees from whom further supporting statements could be sought.
- Nominators must not be members of the Council of the Royal Society, the Royal Society’s Diversity Committee or the Athena Prize judging panel.

References – guidance
- Referees must not be members of the Council of the Royal Society, the Royal Society’s Diversity Committee, or the Athena Prize judging panel at the time the prize is awarded.
- At least one referee should be from someone involved with or impacted by team’s initiative or project.
- The Society will ask for statements from referees within two weeks of the closing date.

Enquiries about the prize should be sent to: diversity@royalsociety.org