



EA R8: Updates to The George Peter Award for Dedicated Service

1 **Abstract:** The George Peter Award for Dedicated Service is the longest running and most
2 prestigious university-wide peer-nominated award for staff. Since its inception in 1980, the award
3 has been conferred to over 190 Cornell employees. The Employee Assembly would like to
4 continue this long-standing tradition with refined terms, eligibility and criteria.
5

6 **Sponsored by:** Ellen T Miller - Research, Tech Transfer & IT Representative At-Large and Vice
7 Chair for Communications; Marin Cherry - Cornell Tech Campus Representative; Jackie Creque
8 - College of Veterinary Medicine Representative; Andrea Haenlin-Mott - Disability
9 Representative At-Large; Ashley Miller - Division of Human Resources Representative
10

11 **Reviewed by:** Communications, Outreach & Recognition Committee, 02/16/2021
12

13
14 **Whereas,** the Cornell University Employee Assembly (Assembly) values and recognizes
15 outstanding staff contributions “above and beyond normal job expectations” via the George Peter
16 Award for Dedicated Service (George Peter Award); and
17

18 **Whereas,** the George Peter Award was established in 1980 and has been conferred to over 190
19 Cornell Employees; and
20

21 **Whereas,** the George Peter Award is awarded to Cornell staff members who consistently
22 demonstrate a high degree of excellence in the performance of their duties and who prove their
23 willingness to extend themselves to help others and go above and beyond the normal expectations
24 of their job responsibilities; and
25

26 **Whereas,** as a peer-nominated award, nominations may only be submitted by Cornell staff
27 members with direct experience working with the nominee; and
28

29 **Whereas,** the George Peter Award was most recently presented in April 2018; and
30

31 **Whereas,** additional opportunities for staff recognition have developed through the years; and
32

33 **Whereas** the Assembly has reviewed and refined the criteria and process of the George Peter
34 Award.
35

36 **Be it therefore resolved,** the Assembly continues to recognize the historical importance of the
37 George Peter Award; and
38

39 **Be it further resolved,** the Assembly will present the award annually; and
40



Cornell University
Employee Assembly

41 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly defines “eligible staff” as “all full-time Cornell staff
42 members with five or more years of service”; and
43

44 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly defines the selection criteria for the George Peter Award as
45 the following:

- 46 • Excellence in the performance of their assigned duties,
- 47 • Dedication to their job and work group that goes above and beyond expectations,
- 48 • Respect for the contributions of staff at all levels,
- 49 • Commitment to lifelong learning,
- 50 • Having positive impact on the university; and

51
52 **Be it further resolved**, the committee of the Assembly currently charged with oversight of awards
53 and recognition shall retain authority to update the criteria, timing and communications of this
54 award as needed over time; and
55

56 **Be it finally resolved**, a copy of this resolution be presented to Martha Pollack, President and
57 Mary Opperman, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.
58

59 **Adopted by Vote of the Assembly (23-0-2), 02/17/2021**

60
61 **Respectfully Submitted,**

62
63 Employee Assembly Communications, Outreach & Recognition Committee:

- 64 Marin Cherry - Voting Member, Employee Assembly Representative
- 65 Kristen Ciferri - Voting Member, Employee Representative
- 66 Jackie Creque - Voting Member, Employee Assembly Representative
- 67 Brandon Fortenberry - Observer, Employee Assembly Representative
- 68 Andrea Haenlin-Mott - Voting Member, Employee Assembly Representative
- 69 Katie Hollenbeck - Voting Member, Employee Representative
- 70 Ashley Miller - Voting Member, Employee Assembly Representative
- 71 Ellen T Miller - Chair & Vice Chair for Communications, EA
- 72 Denny Totman - Voting Member, Employee Representative
- 73 Jessica Withers - Observer - Employee Assembly Representative

74
75 **Addendum 1:** George Peter Award for Dedicated Service Overview



EA R8: Updates to The George Peter Award for Dedicated Service

Addendum 1: George Peter Award for Dedicated Service Overview

George Peter Award for Dedicated Service

[George Peter](#) revolutionized the status of Cornell employees and served as a tireless ambassador for the university. Throughout his 40-year career, Peter was an active member of the campus community. He led the effort to broaden Cornell employees' participation in shared governance, advocating for staff representation in university decision-making and creating opportunities for official recognition of employee achievements.

Overview

The George Peter Award for Dedicated Service is given annually by the Employee Assembly to staff who consistently demonstrate excellence in the performance of their duties, and who prove their willingness to extend themselves to help others and go above and beyond the normal expectations of their job responsibilities. The recipient(s) are announced at a celebration event hosted by the recipient's department or unit. Since its inception in 1980, the award has been bestowed on [over 190 Cornell employees](#).

Eligibility

All full-time Cornell staff members with five or more years of service are eligible for consideration for this award.

Selection Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Excellence in the performance of their assigned duties.
- Dedication to their job and work group that goes above and beyond expectations.
- Respect for the contributions of staff at all levels.
- Commitment to lifelong learning.
- Having positive impact on the university.

Nominations

This is a peer-nominated award. Nominations may only be submitted by Cornell staff members. Any staff member wishing to nominate a colleague should have direct experience working with the nominee and must submit a completed nomination packet. The nomination packet is a single PDF document consisting of:

- Coversheet
- Nomination letter explaining why this person deserves the award, citing relevant examples wherever possible. This can be co-signed by multiple staff members.
- Letter of support from nominee's direct supervisor.
- Up to three brief letters of support from other members of the Cornell community (staff, faculty, students, administrators, alumni)