

# rockethics institute

## Stand Up Award Nominee Essay

The Rock Ethics Institute created the Stand Up Award in 2008 to honor Penn State undergraduate students who demonstrate the courage to stand behind a cause, idea, or belief as they exhibit ethical leadership on campus and in the community.

The Stand Up Award and the Penn State undergraduate students it has honored through the years remind us how often an extraordinary act is possible in seemingly ordinary circumstances.

Nominees for this award *must have* demonstrated ethical leadership, either at Penn State or in the community, and *should have* fostered the ethical development of their peers. Although your nominator will provide a letter on your behalf, ethical leaders should be able to describe their actions, articulate their reasons for acting, and discuss how these actions exemplify ethical leadership in their own words. The following three-part essay gives you the opportunity to do that.

Please complete each part as thoroughly as you can, while keeping the total count for all three parts at 750 words or less. Before submitting, be sure to read the conditions outlined below and either initial or check the box at the end of this form to indicate your agreement.

**Essay Part I:** Use the space below to describe the actions that are most relevant to your nomination for the Stand Up Award.

**Essay Part II:** Please use the space below to describe the process of ethical reasoning that led to your action(s). This description should include discussion of (1) relevant facts that informed your action(s), (2) your motivations for acting, and (3) the ethical principles or values that guided your deliberation and decisions. Please be as specific as possible.

**Essay Part III:** Please use the space below to tell us how your actions demonstrated ethical leadership. For example, how did your actions serve as an example of doing the right thing? How do they provide a model that others might emulate? How have others been influenced in positive ways by your actions?