

Better Together Awards 2013-14

To celebrate all the work that has happened over the last campaign year, IFYC announces the 3rd annual Better Together Awards!

Winners will receive cash awards to increase the scope of their Better Together campaigns as well as free registrations to an Interfaith Leadership Institute for the coming academic year.

This year there are five categories:

- Best Overall Campaign
- Campus Impact
- Inspiring Action
- Rookie of the Year
- Better Together Day

This is on top of the first ever Mike Hammer Interfaith Leader Award.

Applying is simple: First, fill out the "Intent to Apply" form [here](#). Then, a Better Together Support Team member will follow up with you with a link to the award application along with a list of resources to help you as you fill out the application. After an initial round of review, the selection committee might ask for a phone interview to talk more about your application.

Final applications are due May 16th and winners will be announced in a special episode of The Update in early June.

Award Categories

Best Overall Campaign

Award: \$1,500 and 3 free Interfaith Leadership Institute registrations

This prize will be awarded to the campaign that blew our minds when it came to mobilizing their campus for interfaith cooperation. Here's what we're looking for:

- Did you have a clear vision for interfaith cooperation on your campus?
- Did your campaign provide opportunities for people to voice, engage, and act, whether in a specific event or throughout the year?
- How effectively did you mobilize large numbers of participants (either large numbers generally or through a percentage of the student body)? How creative were your campaign events?
- What is the quality of your campaign leadership?
- Did you get staff, faculty and administrators (including your president) to be involved to increase the impact of your campaign?

Campus Impact

Award: \$500 and 2 free Interfaith Leadership Institute registrations

This prize is awarded to the campaign that leaves the biggest mark on campus and best demonstrates the power of interfaith partnerships. These are the criteria we will consider:

- How well did your Better Together campaign engage the different sections of campus?
- What ways can you demonstrate that you've had an impact on the broader campus culture?
- How did staff, faculty and administrators get involved with your campaign?
- Did you get into the classroom to share the message of interfaith cooperation?
- What other student groups partnered with you on your campaign?

Inspiring Action

Award: \$500 and 2 free Interfaith Leadership Institute registrations

This prize is awarded to the campaign that makes the most inspiring impact on their social action issue/s. These are the criteria we will consider:

- Did your campaign include a clearly articulated social action issue/s? (Bonus: Was the issue timely and campus-relevant?)
- Were you innovative and entrepreneurial in the way you approached the issue?
- Can you show us impressive impact metrics that also demonstrate an ability to involve and educate others? For example:
 - # of dollars raised/hours served/goods donated
 - # of people engaged in raising funds/service
 - Evidence of participants' increased awareness and understanding of the issue
 - Praise from those impacted by your work (i.e. testimonials, references, etc.)

Rookie of the Year

Award: \$500 and 2 free Interfaith Leadership Institute registrations

This prize is awarded to the school that has just started running the Better Together campaign in the 2013-2014 campaign year and is already making waves on campus. These are the criteria we will consider:

- What is your leadership starting to look like?
- With which groups have you made connections?
- What sort of events have you organized?
- What's your vision and plan for next year?
- How have you already started to change the conversation around religion on your campus?

Better Together Day

Award: \$500 and 2 free Interfaith Leadership Institute registrations

This prize goes to the campus that raised the volume on the story of interfaith cooperation the loudest on Better Together Day! These are the criteria we'll consider:

- How many pledges did you get from your campus?
- What creative ways did you use Better Together Day to raise awareness about interfaith cooperation (eg, events, promotional campaigns)?
- What sort of event did you do on campus and what was the impact?
- What parts of the campus did you get involved?

The Mike Hammer Interfaith Leadership Award

Mike Hammer was a lifelong change-maker and the original visionary behind the Better Together campaign. He was known for his bottomless supply of empathy, love of music, and a Theravada Buddhism-inspired passion for building a more compassionate and just world.

Mike got his start in the compassion-in-action business after completing the Buddhist pilgrimage circuit in India. In the two years that followed, Mike helped start [TOMS Shoes](#), a socially minded business that matches every pair sold with a pair given to a child in need. He recruited, trained, hired, hustled, and learned a lot of things the hard way.

Mike's internship program at TOMS made Inc. Magazine's "coolest internships" list. His global awareness day, One Day Without Shoes, now draws over 125,000 participants annually, and between the national campus rep. program and the 5-van road tour, he built a grassroots movement for the brand by effectively re-creating every MTV reality program from the mid-nineties.

He joined the IFYC team to help us turn the passion for interfaith cooperation into a movement through the Better Together campaign. The campaign you see today has Mike Hammer's fingerprints all over it, and he will always be remembered by those who've attended the Interfaith Leadership Institutes as someone who believed deeply in the power of young people to change the world.

After IFYC, he became a Strategist at [Purpose](#), a company that deploys the collective power of millions of citizens and consumers to help solve some of the world's biggest problems.

The Award:

Tragically, Mike lost his life in the summer of 2013, but his legacy lives on in hearts and minds around the world. The Mike Hammer Interfaith Leadership Award is intended to deepen that legacy by passing it along to those who see the kind of potential in humanity that drove Mike in everything he did.

The award will be given to a student, who through their work with the Better Together campaign, sought to build a movement and pursued their vision with passion, joy and creativity.

The winner will be awarded:

- \$500 to be used towards refining their skills they need to keep on being an agent for social change after they graduate.
- Mentorship from top social change leaders who influenced Mike throughout his career.
- The winner will be flown to the New York City ILLI on June 21st, 2014 to receive the award.

Criteria:

- Uses innovative thinking to approach the cause of interfaith cooperation.
- Brings passion, creativity, and a movement mindset to her/his interfaith leadership.
- Embodies exemplary interfaith leadership by mobilizing their campus and community to Voice, Engage and Act
- Played a significant role in running the Better Together campaign on his/her campus

To nominate someone, click [here](#). Nominations are due on May 16th.