The Graduate School at Loyola University Chicago believes that students are best served when the university population reflects the larger society. Accordingly, the Graduate School encourages the programs under its jurisdiction to embrace diversity and strive for inclusion. A diverse academic community is characterized by new perspectives and fresh methodological approaches to scientific, humanistic, and social science fields of study. It enhances the pursuit of knowledge and its contribution to our understanding of the world around us. Inclusion values open dialogue, mutual respect, and cultural competence. In harmony with the Jesuit principles of cura personalis (care of the whole person) and homonis pro aliis (people caring for others), inclusion affirms the dignity of all members of the Graduate School community and commits our graduates to put their knowledge, skills, and talents in the service of others.

Samuel A. Attoh, the Graduate School Dean from 2005-2015, believed that increasing the recruitment of underrepresented students and faculty, advocating for and supporting the interests of all students, including but not limited to historically underrepresented students, LGBTQ students, veterans, and students with disabilities, and working with graduate programs to develop and sustain diverse and inclusive academic and social environments created a strong graduate community. In so doing, our students will be equipped to help address social problems and respond creatively and compassionately to the challenges facing our local, state, national, and global communities.

Students may be nominated or self-nominated to receive this award. Only students who are enrolled in programs in the Graduate School at Loyola University Chicago and are in good standing are eligible for this award. For the individual award, students must be engaged in diversity activities during their time as a graduate student, and will be judged on the following criteria:

- Experience as an unpaid volunteer or intern in organizations that serve issues surrounding diversity and inclusion (race, LGBTQ, disability, etc)
- Activism to address diversity issues, including oppression, injustices, or political issues
- Organizing and participating in diversity/inclusion events
- Involvement in research that addresses diversity and/or inclusion issues

Students are required to submit the following:

- A personal statement, one to two pages, describing their involvement in activities that promote diversity and the reasons that they became involved
- Two letters of support, one from a professor with knowledge about the diversity work of the graduate student and a second from a community/organization leader directly aware of some of their diversity/inclusion activities (please submit directly to eforestieri@luc.edu rather than as a part of your application, and note in your e-mail submission of your statement who your letters of support are coming from)

The winner will receive a certificate and a small monetary prize. **Send all submissions to gradschool@luc.edu by midnight on April 17, 2020.**