Urban Expo Awards

**Academic Distinction**
This award is given based on high GPA along with other important academic criteria including the pursuit of a double major, minor or minors, and any type of academic distinctions a student may have earned during the course of their studies at UC San Diego (e.g., winning a research grant or a competition to give an invited academic presentation). Depth of community service on and/or off campus is relevant too (to the extent it stands out exemplary “scholarship of engagement”).

Two awards (one for each major)

**Meritorious Community Service**
This award goes to the student with the most outstanding record of community-based service. This may include volunteer work as well as action research (an academic project that directly benefited some community organization, non-profit or public service agency). The intent is to reward a student who has consistently dedicated themselves to task or promoting social justice and equity through hands-on involvement in community-based projects, and internship and/or work related activities. Service on campus and off campus are both relevant.

Two awards (one for each major)

**Pete Georgiou Award for Service to USP**
Outstanding service to the Department of Urban Studies and Planning is the main criteria for this award. Examples include exemplary service as a student leader, significant contributions to USP events, programs, and/or organized volunteer activity, among other collective activities. This award looks to acknowledge a student who is respected by student peers, faculty, and staff as a thoughtful and creative contributor to USP’s culture valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

One award.

**Health and Human Services Award**
This award goes to a student who will be pursuing a career with a significant focus on understanding and improving human health. Eligibility includes students who have done their USP senior thesis capstone project (SRP) and other coursework focused on health. Other factors will also be taken into account (e.g., applied work, including an internship in a health profession).

One award.

**Placemaking Award**
This award honors a student who shows exemplary initiative, creativity, and energy in helping to build vibrant, healthy, equitable, inclusive places on and off-campus.
One award.

**Best USP Senior Research Project**

Every year the TA(s) and Professor of the Senior Sequence select the best Senior Research Project. The criteria for judging the “best” SRP is the same as SRP evaluation criteria used in class. In sum, an excellent SRP has a very strong **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW** (it spells out a clear research question, argument, or problem. It provides background/evidence on why this subject is important; it outlines your study’s specific objectives, including how your research provides insight into the general topic and relevant scholarly literature. An excellent SRP also has a strong **RESEARCH DESIGN** (it clearly explains your data collection rationale, strategy, and methods). Finally, an excellent SRP has a compelling set of **FINDINGS AND A CONCLUSION SECTION**. In addition to presenting your findings (including the evidence), an excellent SRP will clearly state the implications of your research, perhaps also identifying what questions remain unanswered, and possible next steps.

One award.

**Brutten Awards:**

**Emerging Scholar Award**

This award honors a "rising USP or RED senior" (i.e., a current junior who will be a senior next year) who has distinguished her/him/them-self in classwork and/or scholarly work (research, analysis), as demonstrated by high grades and/or outside accolades (publication, conference presentations, honors, etc), related to scholarly achievement.

One award.

**Emerging Innovator Award**

This award honors a "rising USP or RED senior" (i.e., a current junior who will be a senior next year) who has demonstrated exceptional innovation (creative, possibly interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector, forward-thinking approaches) in her/his/their academic work, research, campus-based or community-based roles, e.g., internships, student organizations, professional organizations, and project teams.

One award.

**Emerging Leader Award**

This award honors a "rising USP or RED senior" (i.e., a current junior who will be a senior next year) who has "stepped up" and taken a significant leadership role on campus, either formally,
through strong commitment to USP-linked student organizations (USP Student Reps, Young Planners Society, Triton Real Estate Organization, and/or Urban Changemakers), other campus organizations/efforts, or informally, as recognized by peers for mentorship, support, and/or other leadership traits and activities.

One award.

Best RED Investor Brochure
One team award.

Digital Media/Communication Awards-formerly Video Awards
First Place, Second Place, and Third Place.

Poster Awards
First Place, Second Place, and Third Place.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant
One award.

Alumni of the Year
Physical award.