Nominations Are Open for Year 2 of 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders

Nominations are now being accepted for Year 2 of 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders, a project that highlights the achievements of the next generation of family planning leaders worldwide. The nomination period opens today, March 22, 2017, and runs through May 17, 2017.

120 Under 40 launched in 2015 to recognize and galvanize the accomplished, inspiring young people who are making a difference in family planning and reproductive health worldwide. 120 Under 40 is organized by the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is sponsored by Bayer.

Year 1 of 120 Under 40 took place in 2016; the first group of 40 winners included journalists, medical doctors and service providers, advocates, researchers, and founders of nonprofits, working all over the world to advance family planning and reproductive health. (See the 120 Under 40 website for profiles of 2016’s winners and nominees.) A select group of the winners attended a series of special trainings, events and meetings in the United States in late September, co-hosted by the Gates Institute, Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) and Population Council.

To be eligible for Year 2, nominees must be 40 years or younger by December 31, 2017, and must have made significant contributions to family planning at the local or national level in advocacy, programming/program implementation, research, service delivery, demand generation, policy/government or media.

Nominations can be submitted by anyone able to speak to the nominee’s work. Nominees all have profiles on 120under40.org. Year 1 nominees who did not win but still meet the eligibility guidelines can be re-nominated (Year 1 winners cannot be re-nominated). The nomination period will close on May 17, 2017.

From June 1 to June 15, 2017, the public will vote via 120under40.org for their favorite nominees. Voters can cast one vote per nominee. Nominees must receive at least 75 public votes in order to move on to the final round, evaluation by an expert jury. The jury will score the nominees based on a set of published criteria. Finally, the project secretariat will review the results and determine this year’s winners.

The 40 winners for 2017 will be announced in September 2017, in advance of World Contraception Day 2017 (September 26), an annual event organized by Bayer that is focused on enabling young people to make informed decisions about family planning and reproductive health. Each winner will receive $1,000 from the Gates Institute, to continue their work in family planning or start an innovative new project. As in 2016, a select group of the 40 winners will be invited to attend special events in the United States in September.
“Considering the caliber of last year’s winners and nominees, I fully expect to be impressed and inspired again this year by the participants in 120 Under 40,” says Jose “Oying” Rimon II, Director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, and Chair of the 120 Under 40 Jury.

The process will repeat for the final time in 2019, so that a roster of 120 outstanding young leaders will be assembled before 2020 — the year by which the FP2020 partnership aims to enable 120 million additional women and girls to access life-saving contraceptives and other reproductive health supplies.

Visit 120under40.org, follow 120 Under 40 on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up for our newsletter.