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Waltham, MA — The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy at Brandeis University has chosen winners of its annual national student philanthropy competition, Generous U. Established in 2009 as an annual contest, Generous U recognizes college and university undergraduate and graduate student groups who encourage philanthropy and embody philanthropic values on their campus.

This year’s winner of the $10,000 Sillerman Prize is Allow Good at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. The first chapter of Allow Good started as the Chicago Youth Philanthropy Group (CYPG) at the University of Chicago in 2012. The CYPG recently joined hands with Allowance for Good (AfG), a non-profit organization in Evanston, IL to form Allow Good. Allow Good practices participatory decision making and encourages youth philanthropy among high school students to create the next generation of philanthropists and change makers. The high school students who participate in Allow Good’s class learn about challenges facing communities where they live and other communities across the nation, and then replicate the philanthropic process to give Allow Good funds to an organization of their choice. For more information about the program and to learn how you can start an Allow Good collegiate chapter, contact Karin Scott at Karin@allowanceforgood.org.
Two runners-up will receive $2,500 each. The Effective Altruists at UC Berkeley empower and engage students to not only give, but give more strategically and effectively. The University of Rhode Island Student Philanthropy Council fosters student engagement and giving through a series of outreach campaigns and stewardship activities.

In addition, three student groups received honorable mention. Towson University’s Presidential Ambassadors, Loras College’s Dance Marathon, and Oklahoma State University’s Student Foundation have all been recognized for their innovative philanthropic work.

“At the Sillerman Center, we encourage students to see philanthropy through a social justice lens in the hope that giving and generosity reflects more than just charity and sympathy but a desire to understand and solve social problems,” said Susan Eaton, director of the Sillerman Center. “The judging team was deeply impressed with and inspired by so many applications this year. In the end, we awarded the groups that we found the most original, most likely to attract high and meaningful involvement, and that could be sustained and replicated.”

Each Generous U submission required a letter of intent and a companion video explaining the philanthropic program. Applications underwent four rounds of judging this year. The judges reviewed all submissions, ranking each on innovation and inspiration, sustainability, impact, and the group’s ability to engage students in their philanthropic goals. Student clubs and groups use the Generous U cash awards to strengthen their campus organization and expand their charitable work.

The Sillerman Center was founded and endowed by Robert and Laura Sillerman in 2008. The Sillerman Center draws upon research and practitioner experience to inform and advance social justice philanthropy and engage youth and young adults in grant making that promotes a more just and inclusive society.

Brandeis University is one of the youngest private research universities in the U.S., characterized by academic excellence since its founding in 1948. Named for the late Justice Louis Dembitz Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court, Brandeis combines the faculty and resources of a world-class research institution with the intimacy and personal attention of a small liberal arts college.