Paulette Bangura, faculty associate, of the Center for Urban Community Development at the UWM School of Continuing Education, and Demetrius Brown, associate professor, Youth Development for Cooperative Extension, are the recipients of the 2012 Engagement Award for Excellence in Community. Bangura and Brown were honored for founding the African Diaspora Project that helps immigrants and refugee children develop needed skills to pursue higher education and career opportunities.

Currently, Bangura and Brown are guiding the Algebra Project as a key component of the Global Leadership Project. Now in its second year, the team trains metro area high school and college students to help eighth grade students -- at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School, Hartford Avenue University School and LaFollette K-8 Elementary School -- develop skills in math so that they can succeed as high school students.

Murali Vedula, director of engineering, sustainability and transportation programs for the UWM School of Continuing Education, was recognized for developing innovative continuing education programs that meet the urgent need for leading-edge training in engineering, manufacturing, water technology, and business sustainability.

Jeffrey Nettesheim, director of utilities for the Village of Menomonee Falls, benefited from one of Vedula’s certificate programs. As Nettesheim said, “The UWM Water Technology Certificate provided a convenient way to keep current with the constantly evolving world of water as taught by those who practice as well as teach.”

On Saturday, September 20, 2012, Demetrius Brown (left) and Paulette Bangura (center) received awards from UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Ray Cross (right) at the institutions’ annual Chancellor’s Awards Reception, in Madison, WI.