

STAR AWARDS DESCRIPTIONS

STUDENT ORGANIZATION DIVISION

Mark of Distinction / Distinguished Merit Awards

The Mark of Distinction is presented to a recognized club or organization who distinguishes itself as an example organization for others to follow- essentially the *Organization of the Year*. This award will be given to the student organization that is recognized as best exhibiting an overall commitment to serving the members within the organization, the Missouri State University and surrounding Springfield community. This recognized club or organization has made the effort to incorporate the Public Affairs Mission throughout their events and programming. In the process of meeting such a commitment, the organization will have stated a clear goal and through their nomination letter will present evidence for meeting such a goal through cohesive action from within the group.

The Distinguished Merit Awards will be given to the top five organizations that have demonstrated an on-going commitment to excellence in all programming and development areas. These organizations have developed programming utilizing the Public Affairs Mission and incorporating the different types of leadership responsibilities in growing the organization.

Most Improved Organization Award

The Most Improved Student Organization Award recognizes a campus group which has made improvements over the past academic year specifically related to membership recruitment and involvement, campus programming, and community service.

Diversity Development Award

The Diversity Development Award is awarded to the organization that has worked to continually promote diversity through programming and membership development.

Leadership/Membership Development Award

The Leadership/Membership Development Award is awarded to the organization that best trains and prepares their members for leadership roles on the campus and in the community and/or awarded to the organization with the most outstanding membership development program. This includes all forms of recruitment of new members and retention of all current members.

Outstanding New Organization Award

The Outstanding New Organization Award is awarded to one new organization that has been established for less than two years and demonstrates fulfillment of its mission and campus and community involvement.

Outstanding Academic/Educational Program of the Year

The program focused on a specific discipline or topic to further knowledge in that area; and encouraged dialogue and learning among attendees. Resources (people, time funds, materials, etc.) were utilized effectively in the development and implementation of the

program. The program was widely publicized. The primary producers of the program were students.

Outstanding Diversity/Multicultural Program of the Year

This award recognizes a student-driven diversity/multicultural program that has been held in the past academic year (2019-2020). The program was dedicated to building positive interaction amongst cultures; promoted awareness of cultures and global issues through student engagement; and provided opportunities for students to learn about the importance of diversity and multiculturalism. Resources (people, time, funds, materials, etc.) were utilized effectively in the development and implementation of the program. The program was widely publicized. The primary producers of the program were students.

Outstanding Philanthropic Program of the Year

The program should exemplify the dedication and financial contributions directed towards the welfare of those in need. The primary producers of the program were students. This program could be a series event, or occur one time. Nominations should be supported by the agency being benefited.

Outstanding Service/Volunteer Program of the Year

Resources (people, time funds, materials, creativity, etc.) were utilized effectively in the development and implementation of the program. The program was widely publicized. The primary producers of the program were students. The program will have demonstrated the commitment of the organization to community service. Nominations should be support by the agency being benefited.

Outstanding Social/Entertainment Program of the Year

The program was geared towards student interests, and provided social opportunities for students to interact in a fun and safe environment. The program was widely publicized. This program could be a series event, or occur one time. The primary producers of the program were students.

Collaborative Program of the Year

This award recognizes an organization which collaborated with a student organization, University Department, or other organization (local, national, or global) that planned, implemented and co-sponsored a program that benefitted the campus community. This could be through a single event or continuous program.

Public Affairs Commitment Award

The Public Affairs Commitment Award is awarded to the student organization that best exemplifies a commitment to the campus and surrounding community by providing exceptional contributions toward meeting the service and philanthropic needs of the community through community engagement and programming.

INDIVIDUAL DIVISION

First Generation Award

Awarded to a member of the 2020-2021 graduating class who is the first of their family to earn a bachelor's degree and has demonstrated a record of personal achievement, service, and scholastic attainment.

Outstanding Freshman Award

The Outstanding Freshman Award is awarded to a freshman who shows great promise as a leader and has been participating fully in campus life. Nominee needs to be classified as a Freshman (0 credit hours - 29.99 credit hours).

Outstanding Sophomore Award

The Outstanding Sophomore Award is presented to a sophomore who has positively influenced the organization and has been participating fully in campus life. Nominee needs to be classified as a Sophomore (30 credit hours - 59.99 credit hours).

Outstanding Transfer Student Award

The Outstanding Transfer Student Award is awarded to a student leader who has had a significant impact on Missouri State's campus and surrounding community as a transfer student. Open to any transfer student, if they have not won the award in the past.

Outstanding Junior Award

The Outstanding Junior Award is awarded to a junior member of an organization who has proven to be instrumental in leading the organization to its goals and participating fully in campus life. Nominee needs to be classified as a Junior (60 credit hours - 89.99 credit hours).

Outstanding Senior Award

The Outstanding Senior Award is presented to a senior member of an organization who has shown consistency in leading the organization and participating in campus life. Nominee needs to be classified as a Senior (90+ credit hours).

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

The Outstanding Graduate Student/New Professional Student Award is given to a graduate student who has maintained scholastic achievement at the master's level and/or beyond, exemplified creative contributions or has shown significant participation within their field of study, illustrated a commitment to diversity, and have provided exceptional service to MSU and the broader community. Graduate students will be defined as any student who has completed an undergraduate degree and at least one semester of master's level work.

Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award

The Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award is given to a member of an organization who has positively influenced the organization and has been participating fully in campus life. Non-Traditional students will be defined as any student who self-identifies as a nontraditional/adult student.

Outstanding Leader Award

The Outstanding Leader Award is presented to an individual who has had the most positive impact in leading the organization toward its goals.

Living Our Values

The Living Our Values award will be presented to the individual student who best exemplifies a commitment to the pillars of the Public Affairs Mission of the university.

Outstanding Organization Advisor (Faculty/Staff) Award

The Outstanding Organization Advisor Award is presented to an organization advisor that creates a supportive environment for the leaders they work with over a long period of time. They volunteer their time outside of their occupation to guide and advise students to be successful. The recipient is an example of how an advisor is instrumental in helping members grow, learn, develop, and mature.