THE 31ST ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LIFE AWARDS

PROMOTION GUIDE: NOMINATIONS

Center for Student Engagement

The CELEBRATION of STUDENT LIFE
Thank you for your assistance in spreading the word about the Excellence in Student Life Awards. We would love for as many students, student organizations, staff members, and faculty members as possible to receive recognition of their passion and dedication to improving student life at GW by being nominated for an award. Please share information about nominations widely! If you have any questions, please contact Anne Graham – awein@gwu.edu or 202-994-0177.

**NEWSLETTER TEXT PROMOTING NOMINATIONS:**

This year, we are celebrating the 31st year of excellence in student life! The Excellence in Student Life Awards serve as an important campus tradition as well as an amazing opportunity to recognize undergraduate and graduate students, student organizations, faculty, and staff members who have significantly enhanced student life at the George Washington University. Nominations for more than twenty awards will be open through **Friday, February 19th at 5:00PM**. Some awards include monetary rewards and scholarships! Winners will be announced at the 31st Annual Excellence in Student Life Awards Ceremony on **April 20, 2015 at 8:00PM** in Lisner Auditorium.

Please take time to nominate a member of the GW community for their passion and dedication to student life. For more information on the awards and to submit your nominations, visit the Excellence in Student Life Awards at [go.gwu.edu/excellence](http://go.gwu.edu/excellence). We hope that you join us in recognizing the great accomplishments in student life at GW over the past year.

**SAMPLE TWEETS AND FACEBOOK POSTS:**

Please utilize go.gwu.edu/excellence and the hashtag #gwexcellence in your posts!

- Nominations now open for the 31st Annual Excellence in Student Life Awards [go.gwu.edu/excellence](http://go.gwu.edu/excellence) #gwu #gwexcellence
- Recognize the passion and dedication of a colleague by nominating them for an award! [go.gwu.edu/excellence](http://go.gwu.edu/excellence) #gwu #gwexcellence
- Nominations now open for more than 20 awards recognizing excellence in student life! [go.gwu.edu/excellence](http://go.gwu.edu/excellence) #gwu #gwexcellence
- All awards recognize the dedication and passion of our community...some include a monetary award [go.gwu.edu/excellence](http://go.gwu.edu/excellence) #gwu #gwexcellence

**UPDATE YOUR EMAIL SIGNATURE:**

Consider changing your email signature to include a link for the Excellence Awards nominations. To do this, click the gear/wheel on the right side of your gmail then click settings. Scroll down to “Signature” and edit as appropriate. For example:

**EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LIFE AWARDS:** [Nominations open through February 19](http://go.gwu.edu/excellence) at 5pm; Ceremony to take place April 20 at 8pm

**DOWNLOAD THE EXCELLENCE NOMINATION POSTER:**

If you’re willing, please visit [go.gwu.edu/excellenceposter](http://go.gwu.edu/excellenceposter) to download the nomination poster. The poster can print as 8.5x11 or 11x17.
**PROMOTE SPECIFIC AWARDS:**

If there is a specific award your team or department would like to promote, please let us know and we can make an award-specific flyer for your use. See below for award descriptions. Note that additional criteria or considerations may be outlined on the nomination form. Click the award name to learn more and nominate.

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Baer Award for Individual Excellence: The Baer Award for Individual Excellence is a prestigious award developed in honor and memory of David A. Baer, a member of the class of 1910, for his involvement in and support for the University's extra-curricular program. This award will honor those students who have demonstrated integrity and commitment in their overall conduct as members of the campus community. Recipients of the Baer Award have taken it upon themselves to make our community stronger and pledged to enhance student life through a variety of involvements. Additionally, these individuals exhibit competent scholarship (a minimum of a 3.0 GPA) in pursuit of their academic objectives. (Awarded to a student)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award: The George Washington University (GW) honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by acknowledging outstanding members of the GW student community who exemplify the values embodied in Dr. King's legacy -- scholarship, service, servant leadership, peace, non-violence, diversity, inclusion, integrity, spiritual growth, ethical reflection. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award is one of the most prestigious honors offered by the university. Undergraduate and graduate students honoring Dr. King's legacy through exceptional leadership, scholarship, service, research, actions, and deeds in service to the university and/or the greater Washington DC communities are eligible. (Awarded to a student)

The Excellence in Diversity Award: The Excellence in Diversity Award honors two registered student organizations who have demonstrated a significant commitment to Diversity and Inclusive Excellence throughout the year. This commitment will be measured based on the following criteria: Programmatic partnerships with organizations whose membership reflects diversity; The organization membership and hierarchy of your organization that reflects diversity; Programs that teach, support, or practice a commitment to diversity, underrepresented communities, diversity training, and/or social justice; Support for national cultural heritage celebrations on campus; Procedural changes in the organization that mark newly discovered diversity opportunities or reflect an historical approach to honoring diversity within the organization; A demonstrated want to explore and appreciate the many cultures of GW through their actions, deeds, membership, and service choices in their contribution to GW. (Awarded to a student organization)

Graduate Award for Individual Excellence: The Graduate Award for Individual Excellence recognizes those students who best exemplify the four-part mission of the Graduate, Distance, and Professional Student Experience (to provide GW graduate students with consolidated and useful information, educational opportunities, support of community events and effective advocacy in the interest of strengthening our community) through their work and efforts in the campus and/or Washington, DC community. This award is only open to graduate students. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by a peer, faculty, or staff member. A graduate student worthy of the Graduate Award for Individual Excellence could be defined by their work, scholarship, and extracurricular activities. Criteria is described in greater detail within the nomination form. (Awarded to a graduate student)

GW Student Employee of the Year Award: Over the years student employees have made valuable contributions to the GW workforce. Often these employees manage full-time academic schedules and participate in campus activities in addition to working part-time. The commitment these students make in balancing the responsibilities of work and school deserves special acknowledgement. We invite you to nominate your student employee for the GW Student Employee of the Year Award. The GW Student Employee of the Year is entered into a regional competition of the National Student Employment Association. This award recognizes student employees who have made outstanding contributions to their employers. If you have a student employee whom you feel is worthy of special recognition, we encourage you to nominate him/her/them. The student you nominate should have worked for you for a period of at least six months, and be a full-time, undergraduate or graduate student at GW. Please note that the nominee will be evaluated on the qualities of reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism, and contribution to employer as indicated on the nomination form. (Awarded to student employee)
• **GW Wall of Fame Award:** The GW Wall of Fame is dedicated to the GW community members who have provided leadership and service to the George Washington University community. Any student (graduate and undergraduate), staff, or faculty member who has made a significant contribution to student life at GW may be nominated. A significant contribution is defined as a measurable, positive impact that benefits the student life experience at GW. A great nomination includes specific examples of the impact this individual has made to the GW community. *(Awarded to a student, staff, or faculty member)*

• **Honey Nashman Spark a Life Award for Faculty Member of the Year:** The Honey Nashman Spark A Life Award for Faculty Member of the Year will be granted to one faculty member who has significantly impacted the holistic development of a student or registered student organization, thus causing a “spark” of inspiration. Individuals eligible for this award are faculty members who have formed a positive mentoring relationship which has measurably impacted the development of the student or registered student organization and the contributions they make to the GW and/or Washington, DC communities. A great nomination includes a faculty member who has played a vital role in the success of a student or a student organization. For example, they may have helped and supported a student or a student organization through crisis, or helped facilitate change within an organization that strengthened the organization, or they helped an organization reach a benchmark of success or achieve a sought-after goal. *(Awarded to a faculty member)*

• **Joint Committee of Faculty and Students Scholarship:** Information and nomination submission form coming soon.

• **Learning Through Action Award:** The Learning Through Action Award has been created to recognize students, registered student organizations and/or university programs that excel in the use of experiential education in their co-curricular events and/or organizations. Experiential education is defined as a process through which a learner constructs knowledge, skill, and value from direct experience and reflection. Great nominations will illustrate the application of experiential learning to a specific event, program, and/or involvement with a registered student organization. Further, the nomination will highlight how this experience has made a measurable, positive impact on the GW community and student experience. *(Awarded to a student, student organization, or university program)*

• **Manatt-Trachtenberg Prize:** The Manatt-Trachtenberg Prize was established in 2004 by Ambassador Charles Manatt, Emeritus Trustee of the University and Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President of The George Washington University from 1988 to 2007, to honor the graduating senior who most significantly challenged the social and intellectual conscience of The George Washington University while displaying leadership, competence, integrity, and goodwill in carrying out University responsibilities. The prize will include a modest cash award. *(Awarded to a graduating senior)*

• **Outstanding Student Service Award (Group):** Recipients of the Outstanding Student Service Award – Group will have exhibited exceptional commitment to supporting the needs and interests of our community locally, nationally, and/or globally through direct community service, as well as, share its passion with The George Washington campus community. To be eligible the group must be a registered student organization, an academic residential community, a service-learning course, and/or an athletic team during the 2015-16 academic year and in good standing with the University. *(Awarded to a registered student organization, academic residential community, service-learning course, or athletic team)*

• **Outstanding Student Service Award (Individual):** Recipients of the Outstanding Student Service Award – Individual will have exhibited exceptional commitment to supporting the needs and interests of our community locally, nationally, and/or globally through direct community service, as well as, share his/her/their passion with The George Washington campus community. To be eligible the individual must by a current undergraduate or graduate student at the George Washington University during the 2015-16 academic year and in good standing with the University (no academic or disciplinary probation). *(Awarded
• **Residential Advisor of the Year Award:** Every year Residential Advisors contribute to the experience of thousands of residential students. The Residential Advisor of the Year Award recognizes the best of that group for their skills and contributions throughout the year. The Residential Advisor of the Year is one who has created a strong community amongst their residents, meaningful mentoring relationships and campus connections. Most importantly, the Residential Advisor must have made a positive impact on the community they serve. All current Residential Advisors are eligible. Nominations may be made by staff, faculty, and/or students of the GW community. *(Awarded to a current residential advisor)*

• **Robert A. Chernak Spark a Life Award for Staff Member of the Year:** The Robert A. Chernak Spark a Life Award for Staff Member of the Year will be granted to one staff member who has significantly impacted the holistic development of a student and/or registered student organization, thus causing a “spark” of inspiration. Individuals eligible for this award are staff members who have formed a positive mentoring relationship which has measurably impacted the development of the student and/or registered student organization and the contributions they make to the GW and/or Washington, DC communities. *(Awarded to a staff member)*

• **Student Organization Officer of the Year Award:** Student organizations depend on their officers to help define the missions of their groups, build plans to achieve their goals, and provide encouragement and motivation to members while also managing expectations and providing important oversight. From presidents and treasurers, to vice-presidents and membership chairs, all officers can have an incredible impact on their organization. In 2016, The George Washington University will recognize these individuals for the first time with the Student Organization Officer of the Year Award. Nominations can be for current or immediate past (term ended during this academic year) officers from any student organization registered with the Center for Student Engagement. Nominees should be officers who have served in their role starting no earlier than January 2015 and no later than November 2015. Nominations should clearly outline how the officer being nominated had a direct impact on their student organization that is meaningful and lasting. Nominees should also have a strong affinity to their organization and the George Washington University in general. Finally, nominees should have proven leadership skills and qualities. *(Awarded to a registered student organization)*

• **Students' Choice for Performance Group of the Year:** Students’ Choice for Performance Group of the Year is an award to be presented to a registered student organization dedicated to the performing arts or to cultural awareness through performing arts. The purpose of the award is to recognize groups who demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting performing arts at the George Washington University by producing artistic, diverse, educational, and entertaining programming that enriches the GW community. The selection committee will choose the top three to five groups from the nominations submitted and those groups will be voted on by the student body online. The top student performance groups selected will also be invited to perform during the Excellence Awards Ceremony on April 20, 2015 at 8pm in Lisner Auditorium and will be voted on live by the audience during the show. The performance group with the highest votes will win this award. *(Awarded to a registered student organization performance group)*

• **The Class of 2005 9/11 Memorial Scholarship:** The Class of 2005 9/11 Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to one rising senior each spring to be applied to the cost of tuition in $2,500 in their senior year. Those seeking this scholarship should have a demonstrated commitment to serving the public good and helping others in their time of need. It is the desire of the Class of 2005 (but not a prerequisite) to give preference to candidates that have volunteered or worked as first responders, or have participated in some form of military service. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by a peer, faculty or staff member. All candidates must have two full, remaining semesters as a full time student. *(Awarded to a rising senior)*
• **The Class of 2009 University Pride Award:** The Class of 2009 University Pride Award recognizes a civically and philanthropically engaged student. This individual demonstrates a genuine passion and affinity for The George Washington University and frequently engages in service and philanthropy at GW and beyond. A great nomination for this award shows that the nominee gives back to the GW community with their time and talent and contributes to the development of a culture of philanthropy and voluntarism among GW students. The winner will receive a textbook stipend for the GW bookstore. This award is funded by the Class of 2009 Senior Class Gift. A non-senior nominee preferred, so the winner can take full advantage of the textbook stipend. *(Awarded to a student)*

• **The Marc A. Zambetti Award:** The Marc A. Zambetti Award was created in honor of its namesake. Marc was a member of the class of 1985 and an active participant in the Intramural Sports program while a student here at GW. Marc was tragically killed when the freeway upon which he was traveling collapsed during the earthquake that rocked the San Francisco Bay area on October 17, 1989. The purpose of this award is to recognize a graduating senior participant (player/employee) in the Office of Campus Recreation's Intramural Sports Program. This senior is one that contributed to the success in the Intramural Sports Program at GW and represented good sportsmanship during his/her/their time in the Office of Campus Recreation's Intramural Sports Program. *(Awarded to a student intramural participant)*

• **The Mount Vernon Award:** The Mount Vernon Award is presented to a current undergraduate student who demonstrates the spirit and legacy of the Mount Vernon Campus and that of its founder, Elizabeth Somers, through many facets of their involvement at The George Washington University. These include (in order of importance): Pride in and appreciation for the Mount Vernon experience; Being a supportive, contributing member of the Mount Vernon Campus community through continued dedication to the MVC campus; Involvement in current affairs of the Mount Vernon Campus, overall GW Community and the city, all while maintaining a high level of academic achievement. Students eligible for this award must be current or former Mount Vernon Campus residents. Nominations by staff, faculty, and peers as well as self-nominations are encouraged and will be accepted. Candidates must be in good academic and disciplinary standing and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 as of the Fall 2015 semester. *(Awarded to a student resident or former resident of the Mount Vernon Campus)*

• **The Pyramid Winner for Student Organization of the Year:** The Pyramid Award for Student Organization of the Year was named in recognition of the Pyramid Honor Society, which was created in the early 1900’s to form a group of students who represented the University by their activities and interests. This award honors registered student organizations and their distinguished level of contribution to the GW community through planned events and programs, both on and off campus. Student organizations which receive this award are recognized by their exceptional success in motivating and organizing fellow students to enhance campus life; and by their collaborative efforts with other organizations or departments to achieve objectives to improve student life. A winner will be selected within each category of student organization and, from that group of category winners, an overall winner will be selected and named Pyramid Student Organization Of the Year. Categories of student organizations include Academic and Professional; Engagement, Advocacy, & Awareness; Club Sports; Cultural/Ethnic; Faith Based; Fraternity & Sorority; Media & Publications; Activities, Programming, and Spirit; Visual & Performing Arts. Please note that social Greek organizations are not eligible. *(Awarded to a registered student organization)*