

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Planning, Governance, and Resource Development

AGENDA ITEM: 4 – B
DATE: December 4-6, 2018

SUBJECT

NSU Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the March 2018 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved the recommendations offered by each institution for the 2017 student organization awards winners. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2018.

The NSU Student Organization Awards will be presented at the December BOR meeting in Aberdeen. Information about the NSU student organization award winners can be found below:

NSU Award for Academic Excellence: Project Pengyou Northern State University Chapter
Project Pengyou connects and organizes students to create cross-cultural relationships by creating spaces to facilitate conversations and to raise awareness of Chinese culture and U.S. China relations. The purpose of Project Pengyou is to build bridges between all cultures, embrace bilateral cultural exchange, fight xenophobia, bigotry and hatred, showcase Chinese culture, and build a stronger connection between international and domestic students. Membership is open to all current NSU students who are interested in Chinese culture and building relationships. The organization contributed to the academic environment of the university in 2017 through monthly educational multicultural forums. Past forums included the following: Benefits and Information of Student Abroad Programs at NSU; Bigotry, Hatred and Stereotypes; Christmas Around the World in 5 Different Countries; and an Introduction to the National Project Pengyou Organization. Additionally, members of the organization have learned about the Chinese language, culture, and history.

NSU Award for Community Service: Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
The purpose of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is to advocate for, support, and improve opportunities for children with disabilities. CEC conducted several activities in 2017 that have provided effective community service. Significant events and activities included the following: participation in Read Across America with stations to simulate

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

what it may be like to read with a disability; hosted annual Autism Awareness Walk; participated in Spread the Word to End the Word to encourage students to pledge to stop using the word “retard”; and participated in the Special Olympics bowling activities held in conjunction with the State Special Olympics Bowling Tournament.

NSU Award for Organizational Leadership: Chinese Students Association (CSA)

The purpose of the Chinese Students Association (CSA) is to share Chinese culture with other students and community. CSA demonstrates organizational leadership through its process of creating public events for NSU and Aberdeen. Such events hosted in 2017 included the following: Golden Globe International Night, volunteering at the Humane Society, participation in the Gypsy Day Parade, created events to celebrate the Moon Festival, participated in International Week, hosted a Ping Pong tournament, and created events to celebrate the Spring Festival/New Year.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recognizes the important role that student organizations play in the Regental system. Student organizations provide students the opportunity to connect with others who have similar interests as well as experience a sense of community, all of which increases the likelihood of successful college completion. They also provide students with opportunities for professional development by offering students practical opportunities to hone skills, including those in leadership and communication.

ATTACHMENTS

None