

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: 3 – F
DATE: October 2-3, 2019

SUBJECT

DSU and NSU Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the March 2019 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved recommendations offered by each institution for the 2018 student organization awards winners. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2019. The DSU and NSU Student Organization Awards will be presented at the October BOR meeting in Madison.

Information about the DSU student organization award winners can be found below:

DSU Award for Academic Excellence: Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Business Club

Phi Beta Lambda’s purpose is to combine business and education together into a positive relationship using innovative leadership and career development programs. PBL provides members the unique opportunity to build leadership, teamwork, networking, and project management skills. In addition, the club participates in several campus and community activities. Members are encouraged to attend state and national leadership conferences. At these conferences, members advance their business skills, develop a professional resume, and network with business leaders. Members also compete in a variety of competitive events which are designed to put classroom lessons into practice. Competitive events are not all business related and are beneficial to students of all majors. Finally, bi-weekly meetings are held for members to voice their opinions and ideas on actions PBL should take.

DSU Award for Community Service: The Alliance

The goal of The Alliance is to provide a safe and inclusive environment for people of all identities and to raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ community and its issues. The group prides itself on being as welcoming and inclusive to all students, faculty, staff, and community members of all identities and backgrounds. It puts a lot of work into building a visible support and ally network on campus and in the local community. Throughout the

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

year the group hosts weekly meetings and many events to benefit students and the community.

DSU Award for Organizational Leadership: CybHER

The purpose of CybHER is to provide a network of support and resources that teach and encourage women who aspire to work in the technology industry. All members of CybHER are females that have an interest in Computer Science, Cyber Operations, Network Security or other technology centric degrees. The group focuses on outreach and local meetings. Last academic year the group held several outreach events where more than 2,000 students were impacted. CybHER group meetings have focused on teaching the members about technology like Raspberry Pi, PHP, and a brainstorming event for individual project ideas. The group has also brought speakers in to speak about personal development and other topics.

Information about the NSU student organization award winners can be found below:

NSU Award for Academic Excellence: Honors Club

The NSU Honors Club is comprised of all members of the Northern State University Honors Program. The Honors Program provides academically gifted and highly motivated students an opportunity to challenge themselves. In addition to being the leaders and members of the NSU Honors Club, NSU Honors students are leaders in clubs and organizations across campus. Significant events or activities conducted by the organization include presentations at National Collegiate Honors Conference, sponsoring and organization the Common Read, hosting the Student-Faculty Quiz Bowl, hosting the Junior Science Bowl, and leading a “How To” Session hosted by Honors Students and Honors Advisors.

NSU Award for Community Service: Environmental Club

The purpose of Environmental Club is to bring ecofriendly awareness to the Northern State University campus and the Aberdeen community while helping get students involved in environmental activities. Significant events or activities conducted by the organization include the building and donating bird houses to the NSU campus and the Aberdeen arboretum; conducting three separate roadside clean up events; collecting wild seeds from Sand Lake for the Wildlife Refuge to disperse on their fields; hosting a community wide showing of the movie A Plastic Ocean; creating and assisting the recycling program that has been implemented in all buildings around campus; and sharing helpful facts on how one can further improve their ecofriendly ways and help the environment

NSU Award for Organizational Leadership: The Exponent

The Exponent is a student run newspaper publication that focuses on and highlights the activities and events happening on Northern State’s campus. The Exponent is an all-inclusive group that gives students the opportunity to explore careers in all aspects of journalism. It currently has a staff of 12 dedicated writers, editors, photographers and artists. The Exponent is published biweekly and has recently undergone aesthetic changes

that are more reflective of modern journalism. Since 1905, The Exponent has been the prime source for student news at Northern. In this past year alone The Exponent covered Aberdeen's Culture Fest, New York Times Bestseller: Angie Thomas's visit to Northern, the traveling True Black History Month, and various community outreaches headed by Northern. Along with this, The Exponent highlights the achievements of Northern's best and brightest with its Student, Faculty and Group Spotlight features.

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