

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

AGENDA ITEM: 3 – C
DATE: March 30-31, 2021

SUBJECT

NSU Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the March 2021 Board of Regents meeting, the Board is anticipated to approve the recommendations offered by each institution for the 2020 student organization award winners. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2021.

The NSU Student Organization Awards will be presented at the March 2021 Board meeting in Aberdeen. Information about the NSU student organization award winners can be found below:

NSU Award for Academic Excellence: TRIO Scholars Association (TSA)

The TRIO Scholar Association (TSA) is comprised of students within the TRIO SSS program, a program at NSU that supports first-generation, low income, and/or students with disabilities in their success toward earning a bachelor’s degree. The group aims to raise awareness of TRIO programs on campus as well as advises the TRIO SSS program on its services to students. One of its important projects in 2020 was to plan and implement a weeklong celebration during the National First-Generation College Celebration week on November 9-13, 2020 for students who identify as first-generation college students.

NSU Award for Community Service: NSU Honors Club

The NSU Honors Program provides academically gifted and highly motivated students opportunities 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. In 2020, the Honors Club organized a year-long service project called “Feeding Aberdeen,” which sought to engaged Honors students with their community by providing meals and hunger relief to those in Aberdeen who needed it most. Alongside that project, the Club also helped serve the Aberdeen community through volunteer work at Safe Harbor and the Salvation Army.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

NSU Award for Organizational Leadership: NSU Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association (SGA) strives to work alongside students to create an environment where students' voices are heard and to promote action. The SGA found ways throughout the year to engage students in the democratic process, including hosting its largest executive election in recent years and hosting a hybrid style presidential debate. It also participates in NSU's Strategic Doing Team and its five-year plan, helping to identify communication breakdowns across campus and promoting more student engagement and representation in campus committees.

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