

The Office of Student Life Presents 2019 Highlander Student Leadership Awards

Individual Awards:

Excellence in Advocacy Award
Excellence in Multiculturalism Award
Excellence in Service Award
Excellence in Spirit Award
Rising Star of the Year Award
Student Staff of the Year Member
Lisa A. Pierce Student Leader of the Year Award
Advisor of the Year Award
Presidential Leadership Awards (Undergraduate & Graduate)

Essay for the Presidential Leadership Awards: Please respond to the essay questions that follow the award description. (Responses must be 500 words or less.)

Question for all other individual awards: In what ways have you (if self-nominating) or the person you are nominating met the criteria to be considered for this award? Please provide examples. (Responses must be 300 words or less.)

Responses will be reviewed by committee members who may know little or nothing about candidates. Please be thorough, yet concise. Bulleted points, like used on a resume, are recommended for parts of your response, such as lists. Please review your spelling and grammar before submitting.

- Applications for all awards are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 14, 2019.
- If you are applying for more than one award, the Highlander Hub Form must be submitted for each individually because responses differ from award to award.
- For all individual award self-nominations, a file upload of your recent resume is required (PDF).
- Letters of recommendation for the Presidential Leadership Awards should be sent directly to Christina.A.Pascucci@njit.edu with "Recommendation Letter" and the student's name in the subject.
- You will receive a confirmation of your application submission immediately after submission

Individual Award Criteria:

- 2.5 Cumulative GPA for all individual awards, except the Presidential Leadership Awards.
- Presidential Leadership Award nominees require 3.0 Cumulative GPA Minimum for Undergraduate students/3.5 Cumulative Minimum GPA for Graduate students.
- Enrollment in Fall 2018-Spring 2019 courses.
- Only students in Freshman or Sophomore standing are eligible for the Rising Star of the Year Award.
- Only students in Junior, Senior, or Graduate standing are eligible for the Lisa A. Pierce Award.

Excellence in Advocacy Award

This award seeks to recognize students who have demonstrated strong leadership in generating campus wide awareness about existing social issues and advocating for change in the NJIT or larger community. These students serve as a role model for social change. Nominees for this award should express how the NJIT or larger community has improved as a result of their efforts and how they have grown from an advocate.

Excellence in Multiculturalism Award

This award seeks to recognize students who have displayed strong leadership and advocacy on diversity issues and has devoted time and effort to the improvement in the NJIT or larger community. These students serve as a role model for diversity, inclusion, and social justice. Nominees for this award should express how the NJIT or larger community has improved as a result of this student's effort and how they have grown from helping spread multiculturalism.

Excellence in Service Award

This award seeks to recognize students who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents, and dedication. These students serve as a role model for service, are invested in helping others in the community, and increasing awareness of community issues through volunteer projects. Monetary or academic credit should not have been received from involvement. Nominees should demonstrate direct service to the community, which is providing service directly to individuals or the community, such as assisting youth with homework and how they have grown from being involved in service.

Excellence in Spirit Award

This award seeks to recognize students who have displayed extraordinary Highlander spirit and pride in NJIT. Whether working on campus, attending a sporting event, or working to increase student engagement in NJIT, these students serve as formal and informal ambassadors of NJIT and exude pride in their institution no matter where they are. Nominees for this award should express how they have represented NJIT and their school spirit, why it is important, and the impact it has made.

Rising Star of the Year Award

This award seeks to recognize first year and sophomore students who exemplify the potential to be the next generation of student leaders at NJIT. These students have already shown to have a positive impact at NJIT by serving in a student organization, attending events and meetings, taking initiative to assist with events, advocating for student causes, and/or dedicating oneself to student life in other ways.

Student Staff Member of the Year

Over the years, student employees have made valuable contributions to NJIT. 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. This award seeks to recognize a student who exceeds supervisor expectations set forth in the job description and goes above and beyond the required responsibilities. This person demonstrates growth of competency in three or more the following areas:

- Reliability
- Initiative
- Adaptability
- Professionalism
- Disposition/Positive Attitude
- Quality of Work
- Uniqueness of Contribution
- Ability to juggle demands of work, school, and student involvement

Please include the department in which you work and the name of your supervisor(s).

Lisa A. Pierce Student Leader of the Year Award

This award is in honor of Lisa Ann Pierce (1968-2004) who worked in Higher Education for over 10 years. Lisa was committed to challenging students to pursue their dreams. This award seeks to recognize an individual who best exemplifies the leadership qualities within a student organization and/or team. This student is consistently motivating and encouraging other members, provides vision for the group, and leads by example in accomplishing the goals and mission of the organization. Nominees should be an example of someone who is a positive role model for peers to follow, shows commitment to their organization(s), has the reliability to get tasks done, and demonstrates the ability to affect positive change in the student community through campus involvement.

Presidential Leadership Award

This award is the most prestigious recognition the university can bestow upon a student. This award seeks to recognize two students per year, one undergraduate and one graduate, who exemplify the mission and values of NJIT through their campus leadership, community service, scholarship, and research. These students exemplify the high ideals of the student who actively demonstrates positive impact at NJIT while being involved in both student life and excelling in academics. This award is presented by the University President.

Essay Questions:

1. In your time at NJIT, please share active roles taken or contributions you've made to the following areas.
 - o Student Life (ex. students organizations and campus events)
 - o Campus employment
 - o Civic engagement and community service

- o Academic excellence, research, and/or scholarship
 - o Building rapport with peers, staff, and faculty
 - o Evidence of active presence on campus (ex. campus wide committees)
2. Please share a time when you've taken initiative and advocated to enhance an aspect of the student experience at NJIT. What was the issue? What did you propose? Was the proposal implemented? And if so, what are the results of the initiative?
 3. NJIT is rated as one of the most diverse campuses in the United States. Please share how your involvement in campus activities (ex. courses offered, research, student groups) contributed to your awareness and knowledge of cultural and global diversity.
 4. Please share how NJIT has shaped your personal development, specifically what influences has the campus community provided to your leadership potential.

Advisor of the Year Award

This award seeks to recognize a student organization advisor or mentor for the 2018-2019 academic year who consistently contributes their time and energy for the improvement of a student organization. This advisor helps motivate the organization by realizing their potential and achieving their goals, while mentoring individual members and leading by example. This advisor pushes the organization to distinguish itself, as well as challenges the members to develop and enhance leadership skills. When conflict arises, this person has an understanding of conflict resolution strategies for the benefit of the student organization. This advisor has gone above and beyond to aid a student organization, is very active in the campus community beyond their formal role at NJIT, and/or exemplifies NJIT pride. The Advisor of the Year Award will recognize an individual for their service, dedication, mentorship, compassion, consistency, and commitment to student development.

Campus Impact Award

This award is given to a person(s) employed by NJIT, who is not a member of the faculty or a student organization advisor, who has had a profound positive impact on the student experience. This individual has gone above and beyond to support and empower NJIT students.

Organization and Programming Awards

Advocacy Program of the Year
Community Service Program of the Year
Diversity Program of the Year
Professional Development Program of the Year
Social Program of the Year
Outstanding Marketing of the Year
Collaborative Spirit Award
New Student Organization of the Year
Student Organization of the Year

Group Award Question: For the award(s) you are applying; please explain how your organization exemplifies the description of the award, with examples. (Responses must be 300 words or less.)

Responses will be reviewed by committee members who may know little or nothing about your organization. Please be thorough, yet concise. Bulleted points, like used on a resume, are recommended for parts of essay, such as lists. Please review your spelling and grammar before submitting in Highlander Hub form.

- All award applications must be submitted to Highlander Hub Form by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 14, 2019.
- If you are applying for more than one award, you may submit one response and select ALL awards for which your organization would like to be considered.
- **Note:** *You will receive a confirmation of your Highlander Hub form submission immediately after submitting.*

Group Award Criteria:

- Only one application per organization will be accepted, so please coordinate within your organization before submitting.
- Good standing with governing council (ex. GSA, FSL, Senate, RHA, etc.) and Office of Student Life.
- Attended all required meetings hosted by the Office of Student Life and governing council.
- Organizations and/or programs should not have previously received the specific award within the past two years.

Advocacy Program of the Year

This award seeks to honor a student organization that has displayed strong leadership in generating campus wide awareness about existing social issues, and has devoted time and effort to the improvement of the University or larger community. The student organization should demonstrate who its members advocated for a cause and what was gained as a result of their advocacy.

Community Service Program of the Year

This award seeks to recognize a student organization whose program saw a need and initiated positive change outside the NJIT community through service and action. The student organization should demonstrate how its members provided direct service to individuals or the community, such as assisting youth with homework, how they made a significant contribution to the community, and explain what was gained as a result of participation in the given service event. Monetary or academic credit should not have been received from involvement.

Diversity Program of the Year

This award seeks to recognize a student organization program that provides information and raises awareness about diversity or multicultural topics (race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, religion, age, gender, sex, ability, cultural identity, or cross-cultural communication). The student organization should describe how their program sought to provide our students with opportunities to explore how they can become better leaders in a diverse world.

Professional Development Program of the Year

This award seeks to recognize a student organization program which provided an impactful professional development opportunity for students. The student organization should describe the elements of the event that allowed students to develop professionally, such as with speakers, alumni, etc and what students gained from attending the program.

Social Program of the Year

This award seeks to recognize one of the many high quality student organization social programs that complement the rigor of NJIT's academic environment. These programs become cherished as a part of the Highlander experience. The student organization should emphasize how their program promoted student participation in campus events and school spirit and provided students with the opportunity to interact with new people.

Outstanding Marketing Award

This award seeks to recognize a student organization that has created exceptional promotional material for an event, displaying creativity, innovation, thoroughness, and has the ability to inform and capture an audience. Simply stated, marketing is everything an organization does to make their event attracting to students. The student organization should explain how, as a result of their marketing, programs have benefitted in attendance and turnout attracting a wide array of attendees.

Collaborative Spirit Award

This award seeks to recognize the collaborative efforts made in a campus programming between several student organizations. The student organizations should explain how they have embodied the elements of teamwork, collaboration, negotiation, effective listening skills, and membership development through their collaborative effort as well as what students gained from this initiative.

New Student Organization of the Year

This award seeks to recognize a new student organization that has been established at NJIT within the past 2 years and has sustained active visibility on campus. This organization has demonstrated involvement in the NJIT campus community providing creative programs, a new opportunity for students that had not been met before in other areas, leadership positions, and has worked to ensure the organization is successful in years to come. This new organization must show evidence of making a positive impact within their first year or two on campus.

Organization of the Year

This award seeks to recognize one established student organization which exemplifies commitment to the betterment and strengthening of the organization's chosen community/audience. The organization should have strong leaders who consistently work together toward the group's common goals. In addition, the organization should serve as role model for the other NJIT student organizations by excelling in the following group leadership areas:

- Fulfilling the mission and goals of their organization
- Maintaining and retaining members
- Engaged in teamwork and collaboration with other student organizations
- Provide a variety of campus programs that reflect the mission and purpose of their organization
- Provide opportunities for members to develop their leadership skills
- Create an inclusive and welcoming environment for diverse membership