

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

AGENDA ITEM: 3 – D
DATE: June 26-27, 2024

SUBJECT

NSU Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the April 2024 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved recommendations offered by each institution for the 2023 student organization award winners. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2024. The Northern State University (NSU) Student Organization Awards would be presented at the June 2024 BOR meeting in Aberdeen.

2023 NSU Award for Academic Excellence: Honors Club

The Honors Program aims to excel academically and connect socially within the Northern community. Supporting engaging academic and intellectual opportunities both on and off campus. As dedicated leaders of their club, their members have consistently demonstrated exceptional academic prowess, leadership qualities, and a profound commitment to scholarly pursuits. Some examples of their academic achievements include Jaedon Shaving placing first in his respective category at the 2023 National Collegiate Honors Conference, Jessica Splichal and Megan Fastenau presenting at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Antonio, TX, and Kendall Kelly and Sierra Sweeney presenting their posters at the Annual Northland Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine in Duluth, MN. The Honors Club continues their commitment to academic excellence both in and out of the classroom.

2023 NSU Award for Community Service: Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

The Northern State Council for Exceptional Children is a branch of the National Organization that works together to share their passion for special education through events on campus and in the community. Some of the programs they hosted included a Sensory Santa event at the local public library for children and their families to partake in holiday events in a sensory friendly environment. Included in the event were activities led by students to create DIY stress balls, decorate a Velcro Christmas tree, and providing a book for each child to take home. The highly successful event will now be an annual tradition

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

put on by the Council of Exceptional Children to continue to promote accessible events in the community.

2023 NSU Award for Organizational Leadership: Residence Hall Association (RHA)

The Residence Hall Association is the governing body for students living in the residence halls and works to improve residence hall communities and promote student engagement. RHA strives to advocate for residents, provide opportunities for personal development, ensure a welcoming environment, and address concerns and needs of their residential students. As a reactivated student organization, RHA updated their leadership structure and their mission to support students within the residence halls as well as promote a vibrant community. In a short time, they hosted an annual campus event called “Lighting of the Northern Green,” initiated the first “Welcome Back Pack Rave, organized a “Love is..” event, and organized a week long recognition event to celebrate resident assistants. Within the last 12 months of their reactivation, RHA has demonstrated outstanding leadership development.

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 practical opportunities to hone skills, including those in leadership and communication.

ATTACHMENTS

None