2023 President’s Award for Leadership

These honors recognize and reward undergraduate/graduate students and organizations that have made significant contributions to enhance the quality of life at the University at Albany. Recipients will have demonstrated a variety of accomplishments including extraordinary leadership, service, academic achievement, and involvement within the University community.
AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE: At the time of selection, recipients must be in good academic and judicial standing. A minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA is highly recommended for all awards.

**Academic Leadership Award**

The Academic Leadership Award recognizes student leadership in academic settings. This may include the classroom, the research laboratories and other research settings, and internship sites. A 3.25 cumulative GPA is recommended. A letter of recommendation from a faculty member is highly recommended.

**Athletes and Recreation Leadership Award**

The Athletes and Recreation Leadership Award recognizes athletes who participate in Division 1 sports, intramurals, or club sports whose leadership has transcended their sport. Recipients will have made invaluable contributions to their team, achieved academic distinction, or have made significant contributions to our University and its surrounding community.

**Community Service Leadership Award**

The Community Service Leadership Award recognizes students who most clearly evidence a service ethic in their citizenship. Students will have demonstrated unselfish involvement at UAlbany or in the surrounding community as they strive to better an aspect of society by dedicating considerable time to worthwhile projects that benefit others. Please include information regarding the frequency of the commitment (e.g., number of hours per week or per semester), the nature of the service, and whether you were compensated for the service.

**Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award**

The Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award recognizes and honors one graduating undergraduate senior who best exemplifies the scholar-leader-service ideal. The recipient will have demonstrated academic excellence, effective leadership in the University community, and a commitment to serving others. Distinguished-Scholar-Leaders should have demonstrated a strong commitment to their academic and intellectual development as evidenced by participation in research or other creative scholarly activity. Recipients will be asked to nominate a faculty or staff member to be recognized at the award ceremony. This award is among the highest conferred upon undergraduates. A 3.75 cumulative GPA is recommended. NOTE: For the purpose of this award, senior status is defined by date of graduation, not by credits earned. December graduates are eligible.

**Diversity & Inclusion Award**

The Diversity & Inclusion Award recognizes a person who has demonstrated leadership in increasing the University’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. This includes, but is not limited to, promoting appreciation of individual differences and working with others to find common ground.

**Equity 5K Social Justice Leadership Award**

The Equity 5K Social Justice Leadership Award recognizes two individuals who have demonstrated a passion for social justice and played a leadership role in advancing initiatives related to advancing social change and promoting equity and inclusion. This award includes two scholarships of $700 each.

**Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Award**

The Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Award is given to sorority and fraternity members and organizations who have contributed to their chapter, the Greek system, and the University. Through strong leadership and valuable service, these students and organizations have exemplified the ideals of brother and sisterhood and have worked to further develop Greek life at the University at Albany. Pre-
professional fraternities are encouraged to apply.

**Great Dane Award**

The Great Dane Award is given to any student who has demonstrated leadership in several co-curricular activities or significant leadership in one such activity during the current year.

**The I AM FIRST GEN Scholarship**

The I AM FIRST GEN Scholarship was recently established in an attempt to aid underrepresented college students in paying for their post-secondary education. It specifically recognizes residents of the State of New York whose parent/guardian has not been awarded a bachelor’s degree or higher. Applicants must submit a 90 second video interview of themselves speaking on the topic of why it’s important for campuses to “invest” in their first-generation students. The winner’s video will be highlighted on the FIRST GEN Scholars webpage. This award carries a scholarship of $500.

**The Interfaith Center Award**

The Interfaith Center Award is given to an individual whose record of accomplishments reflects significant contributions to The Interfaith Center and the University. The award acknowledges a student who has made laudable efforts to further interfaith understanding and to promote the spiritual growth of members of The Interfaith Center community.

**The Jonathan Whyte-Dixon Memorial Scholarship**

The Jonathan Whyte-Dixon Memorial Scholarship recognizes a UAlbany student (undergraduate or graduate) who best exemplifies Jonathan’s school spirit, meaningful involvement within the UAlbany community, leadership on campus, and overall enthusiasm and passion. Preference will be given to a student who has volunteered or worked for the Liberty Partnerships Program and demonstrates financial need. NOTE: This award carries 2 scholarships of $1,500 each.

**The Justice Award**

The Justice Award honors a student whose commitment to the principles of fairness and equity has helped to foster justice at the University. This group promotes the appreciation of individual differences and works together to find and express common ground. Recipients will have made distinct contributions toward achieving these ideals.

**The Juneteenth Scholarship**

The Juneteenth Scholarship commemorates the meaningful importance of Juneteenth, promote the values of diversity and inclusion at UAlbany, and to recognize and celebrate the rich and complex histories of our Black and Afro-Latinx students. Applicants to this scholarship, who should possess at least a 3.0 GPA in any major, must submit a 250-500 word essay on why Juneteenth is personally meaningful to them. NOTE: This award carries 2 scholarships of $500 each.

**Outstanding Senior Award**

The Outstanding Senior Award recognizes undergraduate seniors who have contributed greatly to the University during the course of their undergraduate careers. Their leadership abilities may have been demonstrated on the University level or in more than one organization. Applicants should list all of their involvement and achievements since arriving at the University. Recipients will then be asked to nominate a faculty member to be recognized at the award ceremony. This award is among the highest conferred upon undergraduates. A 3.50 cumulative GPA is recommended. NOTE: For the purpose of this award, senior status is defined by date of graduation, not by credits earned. December graduates are eligible.
Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award

The Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award recognizes faculty or staff advisors who go “above and beyond” for the organization(s) they advise. The nominated individual must serve as the official advisor to a Student Association, Graduate Student Association, or University recognized student organization in good standing. Nominations for this award should be submitted by students.

Outstanding Student Organization Leadership Awards

The Outstanding Student Organization Leadership Awards are given to student organizations whose activities have enhanced the University community through their outstanding leadership and service.

- The Community Service Award recognizes the organization that best represents the service ideal of the University by unselfishly serving the Albany and/or University community. Please include information regarding the frequency of the commitment (e.g., number of hours per week or per semester), the nature of the service, and whether you were compensated for the service.
- The Cultural Awareness Award recognizes the organization that has demonstrated leadership in increasing the University community's cultural awareness, thereby enabling students to appreciate the diversity that underpins our society.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Award recognizes an organization that has demonstrated leadership in increasing the University’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. This includes, but is not limited to, promoting appreciation of individual differences and working with others to find common ground.
- The Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Award is given to sorority and fraternity members and organizations who have contributed to their chapter, the Greek system, and the University. Through strong leadership and valuable service, these students and organizations have exemplified the ideals of brother and sisterhood and have worked to further develop Greek life at the University at Albany. Pre-professional fraternities are encouraged to apply.
- The Great Dane Award is given to any organization that has demonstrated leadership in several initiatives or significant leadership in one activity during the current year.
- The Justice Award honors an organization whose commitment to the principles of fairness and equity has helped to foster justice at the University. This individual promotes the appreciation of individual differences and works together to find and express common ground. Recipients will have made distinct contributions toward achieving these ideals.

Any student organization currently recognized by the Student Association, Graduate Student Association, or the University is eligible for nomination. Eligible projects/programs either began or were active and completed within the Spring or Fall 2022 semesters.

The Rod and Carolyn Hart Memorial Award

The Rod and Carolyn Hart Memorial Award is given to an undergraduate student of junior class standing who has demonstrated academic achievement and who has made a difference on the UAlbany campus by organizing benefit drives for charitable causes and/or demonstrated leadership within a campus organization that serves the good of the University community. NOTE: This award carries a scholarship of $500.

Sustainability Leadership Award

The Sustainability Leadership Award recognizes a graduate or undergraduate student who contributes to the advancement of environmental, economic and social sustainability within the UAlbany campus and surrounding community. This student will have demonstrated a leadership role in raising awareness and increasing campus involvement in advancing sustainability.

University Governance Leadership Award

The University Governance Leadership Award recognizes students who have provided important leadership to the campus by taking an active role relative to policy matters of student
government and the University.

University Service Leadership Awards

The University Service Leadership Awards are presented to students who best represent the service ideals of the University and have made significant contributions to enhance the quality of life for the campus community.

- The Christine A. Bouchard School Spirit Award was established in honor of Christine A. Bouchard by her colleagues and friends, on the occasion of her retirement as Vice President for Student Affairs at the University at Albany. The purpose of this award is to recognize an undergraduate student(s) who best exemplifies and promotes school spirit. This award carries 2 scholarships of $850 each.
- The Five Quad Award is for an exceptional member of the University’s student-run 24/7 volunteer ambulance service.
- The Great Dane Ambassadors Award recognizes a student who has performed exceptionally well and demonstrated leadership in their study abroad experience, succeeding academically, making many new friends, and creating a very positive impression at the host institution.
- The International Student Leadership Award recognizes an international undergraduate and graduate student whose efforts and involvement have enhanced the lives of international students and/or the University community.
- The Middle Earth Award is for a member of this important peer counseling and referral group.
- The Project SHAPE Award is for a student volunteer in recognition of exceptional performance, commitment, and service as a valuable member of the Project SHAPE: Sexual Health & Peer Education program.
- The Residential Life Outstanding Achievement Award honors those individuals who have continued to strive to improve the quality of life for residence hall students. The recipients will have demonstrated exceptional leadership and take an active role within the residence hall system.
- The UAlbany Fund Award recognizes a student caller who, through outreach to parents and alumni, is an exceptional representative of the university, and has been successful in obtaining the private support that UAlbany needs.

Veteran/Military Leadership Award

The Veteran/Military Leadership Award recognizes a student veteran who has been involved on campus or in the local community, and/or has contributed to the success of other student veterans. The recipient must be a past or present member of the U.S. Armed Force.

Women’s Leadership Awards

The Women’s Leadership Awards are given to female students who have demonstrated significant involvement and leadership at the University. Through their involvement, recipients have advanced the affirmative action mission of the University and have contributed to an increased campus awareness of women and their contributions.

- The Ada Craig Walker Award is given to a graduating undergraduate senior woman who “in judgment of the faculty best typifies the ideals of the University.” Nominees should possess a 3.0 minimum GPA. Women graduating in December, May, or August are eligible. NOTE: This award carries 3 scholarships of $2,000 available each.
- The Returning Woman Award recognizes a student who serves as a positive role model for returning women. The recipient will have demonstrated her exceptional leadership skills through participation in campus activities and personal success in facing the challenges of pursuing her educational goals as a non-traditional student.
- The Women’s Outstanding Leadership Award is given to a student who has demonstrated significant leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life for women at the University at Albany.