

FGCU Student of the Year Awards

Student of the Year Awards

Dear Colleagues,

It is time, once again, to recognize our most outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. This is the last call for nominations for FGCU Student of the Year at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Nominations are due on Friday, February 27th by the end of the day.

FGCU presents two Student of the Year (SOTY) awards on an annual basis to students who demonstrate outstanding collegiality and commitment to the mission and guiding principles of FGCU. These awards include:

Undergraduate Student of the Year: Awarded to an undergraduate student who is in academic good standing, has completed a minimum of 12 credits at FGCU and is registered for, and successfully completing, at least nine (9) credits in both the fall and spring semesters during the academic year in which the award is given. For example, for the award given in the spring of 2009, they must have taken at least nine (9) credits during the fall of 2008, and at least nine (9) credits during the spring of 2009.

Graduate Student of the Year: Awarded to a graduate student who is in academic good standing, has completed a minimum of 12 credits at FGCU and is registered for, and successfully completing, at least nine (9) credits in both the fall and spring semesters during the academic year in which the award is given. For example, for the award given in the spring of 2009, they must have taken at least nine (9) credits during the fall of 2008, and at least nine (9) credits during the spring of 2009.

In the event that a student has successfully completed fewer than the required number of hours due to changes within the academic unit (e.g. course cancelled during the semester), the student may petition the SOTY committee to consider the unusual circumstances.

Award

Recipients of the Student of the Year awards will be recognized at the Celebration of Excellence during the spring semester.

Nomination Process

Student of the Year Awards criteria are announced by the Provost's office at the beginning of the academic year. The Provost's office issues an official call for nominations in late fall and final notification by February 13th. Nominations are submitted to the office of the Dean of Students, Michele Yovanovich myovanov@fgcu.edu, Division of Student Affairs, by February 27th. Nominations must come from individuals with direct knowledge of the nominee's qualifications and achievements. This may include students, peers, administrators, staff, or community members.

Students may not solicit nominations, nor may they nominate themselves.

Nominators can only nominate one person for each award and may do so in writing (on paper or email). Include complete contact information for the nominee, including telephone numbers and the email address, to facilitate SOTY committee contact with the nominee.

All who accept the nomination must submit a portfolio to the office of the Dean of Students, myovanov@fgcu.edu by March 13th, accepting the nomination and authorizing the committee members to access their academic file.

The one-page nomination letter must include:

- How the nominator knows the nominee (relationship between the nominator and nominee)
- How long the nominator has known the nominee
- How the nominee meets the award criteria

Documentation (Portfolio)

Candidates for the Student of the Year Awards prepare a portfolio containing materials which demonstrate their achievements. Student of the Year portfolios are submitted to the Dean of Students, Michele Yovanovich, SU-104, myovanov@fgcu.edu, Division of Student Affairs, by March 13th.

All portfolios must contain:

- A statement from the student that supports his/her nomination. This statement demonstrates the achievements of the student in leadership, scholarship and service.
- At least one letter should be from a faculty member who has had the student in class, describing the ways in which the candidate added to the learning environment.
- At least one letter should be from a person who has direct evidence of the student's commitment to service and
- Evidence (letters, articles, web pages, etc.) as to the achievements of the student in the categories of leadership, scholarship and service.

Selection Committee

The Student of the Year committee will be made up by the Student Affairs Team and the Dean of Students (or designee). If the student representative to the SAT is being considered for this award, the Student Government president shall appoint a substitute.

If a member of the committee must be absent for the final meeting in which we vote on the recipient of the award, he/she must send a representative from their college in their place.

Award Evaluation Criteria

The FGCU Student of the Year Award seeks to recognize overall achievement. It is expected that the student receiving the award will demonstrate excellence in leadership, scholarship, and service to the university and to the community.

Evidence of achievement in these categories may include (but is not limited to):

Leadership

- Evidence that the candidate upholds the standards of the university
- Evidence of initiative
- Evidence of significant participation in organizations
- Evidence of time management skills
- Evidence of honor and integrity
- Evidence of respect for peers

Scholarship

- Academic honors
- Letters from faculty
- Evidence of the spirit of intellectual curiosity in the learning environment
- Enthusiasm for learning
- Conference papers
- Class projects
- Submissions to journals, including Ampersand, The Eagle, or others

Service

University community

- Student government association
- The Eagle News
- Greek Letter Organizations
- Participation in student organizations
- Participation with University Services
- Peer tutoring

Local community

- Fund Raising Opportunities
- Habitat for Humanity
- Red Cross
- March of Dimes
- Walkathons
- Homeless shelters
- Activities at area elementary or high schools

Global community

- Participation in environmental issues
- Participation in the global learning community (i.e. web pages)
- Study Abroad Experiences
- International Service Learning Opportunities