

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 a~~ call for nominations for FGCU Student of the Year at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Nominations are due on Friday, February ~~27th-25th~~ by ~~the end of the day~~ 4:30 PM. All awards will be announced at the 14th annual Celebration of Excellence Awards ceremony scheduled for April 21, 2011 and will be kept confidential until that time. Please carefully read the following to ensure that any student you nominate meets the criteria as outlined below.

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 20092011, they must have taken at least nine (9) credits during the fall of 20082010, and at least nine (9) credits during the spring of 20092011.

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-six (96) 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 20092011, they must have taken at least nine six (96) credits during the fall of 20082010, and at least nine (96) credits during the spring of 20092011.

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 Division of Vice President of Student Affairs Office, Attention: Tammy McCaslin, tmccaslin@fgcu.edu, Student Affairs, Eileen Whitt ewhitt@fgcu.edu by February ~~27th~~ 25th. 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 ~~due-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.

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

All who accept the nomination must ~~submit a portfolio to~~notify the Vice President of Student Affairs Office, Attention: Tammy McCaslin, tmccaslin@fgcu.edu~~Division of Student Affairs Office, Student Union room 104~~ by March ~~13~~²⁵~~th~~, accepting the nomination and authorizing the committee members to access the student 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 Vice President of Student Affairs Office, Attention: Tammy McCaslin, SU-1-4, tmccaslin@fgcu.edu ~~Eileen Whitt ewhitt@fgcu.edu in the Division of Student Affairs~~, by March ~~13~~²⁵~~th~~.

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.
- An unofficial transcript, which can be found on Gulfline.

Selection Committee

The Student of the Year committee will ~~be made up by~~ consist of 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~~ members of the committee must be absent for the final meeting in which ~~we~~ they vote on the recipient of the award, ~~he/she/they~~ must each 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 (K-12)

Global community

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