



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



23rd Annual Summit Awards April 10, 2025

D.P. Culp Student Center Ballroom

Johnson City, TN

Program Agenda

Welcome.....	Dr. Leah Adinolfi <i>Dean of Student Engagement</i>
Nominee, President and Advisor Recognition.....	Macy Strader & Greg Crutcher
Outstanding Advisors & Outstanding Presidents Award.....	Carter Warden <i>Director of Student Activities & Organizations</i>
Shea Keane Peace Builder Award.....	Nathan Farnor <i>Community Engagement Specialist</i>
Housing and Residence Life Awards.....	Dr. Adrianna Guram <i>Associate Director of Residence Life</i>
Distinguished Service Awards	
Rising Star Awards	
Most Improved Student Organization	Lexi Petrak <i>Assistant Director of Campus Visits</i>
The One to Watch in 2025	
Outstanding Programs and Program of the Year	Carter Warden <i>Director of Student Activities & Organizations</i>
Unsung Heroes Recognition.....	Macy Strader & Greg Crutcher
Halie Ann Rex Student Leadership Award.....	Eric Payne <i>Assistant Director of Outdoor Adventure</i>
Order of Omega Academic Excellence Awards.....	Zack Sholes <i>Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life</i>
Fraternity/Sorority Leader Awards	
Jan Phillips Mentor Awards.....	Brady Adams <i>2024-2025 President, Sigma Chi Omega Fraternity</i>
Ronald & Edith J. Carrier & Tate Obadiah White Awards	Dr. Michelle Byrd <i>Associate Vice President & Dean of Students</i>
Student Government Association Awards	
Cabinet Member of the Year.....	Hunter Turgeon <i>2024-2025 SGA President</i>
Associate Justice of the Year.....	Sarah Mohammad <i>2025 SGA Chief Justice</i>
Senator of the Year.....	Finn Shirley <i>2024-2025 SGA Executive Vice President</i>
Citi Leadership Scholarship & Dorman G. Stout Student Leadership Award.....	Dr. Leah Adinolfi <i>Dean of Student Engagement</i>
Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority of the Year and Impact Awards.....	Zack Sholes <i>Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life</i>
Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society.....	Joy Fulkerson <i>Director of Leadership & Civic Engagement</i>
Closing.....	Dr. Joe Sherlin <i>Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment</i>

2025 Outstanding Student Organization Presidents

Academic Organization President.....Faith Simmons,
Society of Physics Students

Faith-Based Organization President.....Matthew Kinsler,
Baptist Collegiate Ministry

University-Sponsored Organization PresidentMacy Strader,
East Tennessean

2025 Outstanding Student Organization Advisors

Academic Organization Advisor..... Dr, Kelly Atkins,
Collegiate Merchandising Association

Fraternity/Sorority Advisor..... Zack Sholes,
East Tennessee Fraternity Council

Special Interest Organization Advisor.....Rachel Swatzell,
The Swift Society

University-Sponsored Organization Advisor.....Lexi Petrak,
Expedition Leaders

2025 Unsung Hero Award

This award recognizes undergraduate students for their work “behind the scenes” to provide better programs and encourage active student organization. Unsung Heroes do not hold major leadership positions in student groups, such as president, nor are they yet recognized by Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society.

Savannah Shaw, Leah Loveday, Jacob Kinser, Callie Stewart, Raegan Faison, Elizabeth Robinson, Blake McClain

2025 Shae Keane Peacebuilder Award – Mikaela Pellerin

This award recognizes individual achievements in peacemaking, leadership, community service and activism. Examples include activities in the areas of civil rights, cross-cultural understanding, economic and social justice, environmental protection as well as activities that help advance peace and human dignity.

Former Executive Member of Alpha Xi Delta, Mikaela Pellerin has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service and social justice. As a CNA, she provided compassionate care for patients with dementia. Mikaela served as an ETSU Changemakers Honors Scholar, collaborating with peers to drive positive change, and contributed to mental health research with a focus on suicide prevention at Quillen College of Medicine. She has also worked to improve environmental sustainability, presenting a project on enhancing ETSU's recycling initiatives. Additionally, she has been actively involved in supporting underserved communities, including volunteering with ETSU Project Sunshine and advocating for elder care and veterans' issues through philanthropic events. Mikaela's work exemplifies a deep dedication to service, leadership, and social impact.

Most Improved Student Organization of 2025 – The Muslim Student Association

This award recognizes significant improvement in the overall functioning, visibility, and level of activity of student organizations.

The One to Watch! 2025 – Students Supporting Trauma-Responsive Organizations: Nurturing Growth

This award recognizes a newly formed student organization that has demonstrated extraordinary potential in its first year on campus. Student groups applying for this recognition must have been granted "active" status by the SAO during the 2024 calendar (Jan-Dec) year.

2025 Jan Phillips Mentor Award – Dr. William Duncan, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology

Mentors are an important part of personal and professional development of student leaders. They are guides through times when people need someone who is able to point them in the right direction. Good mentors are enthusiastic people, enjoying the role they play in helping others achieve their goals. This award recognizes an exceptional faculty, staff, alumni or community member who has served in the role of mentor during the 2024 calendar year.

Outstanding Programs and 2025 Program of the Year

Best New Program of the Year.....Taste of Johnson City,
Young Professionals on Campus

Outstanding Educational Program.....Concert For Change,
The Muslim Student Association

Outstanding Social Program.....What Lifts You,
The Swift Society

Outstanding Service Program Service Saturday,
Volunteer ETSU

Outstanding Diversity Program.....Holi Color Wars,
The South Asian Student Association

2025 Overall Program of the Year.....Local Hearts,
The Student Government Association

Halie Ann Rex Student Leadership Award – Ansley Reed

The Halie Ann Rex Student Leadership Award was established in 2025 through the deeply generous donations of many friends and family of HalieAnn. HalieAnn joined Campus Recreation as a Graduate Assistant for Outdoor Adventure in the Fall of 2024. October 12 of this past year, following a Challenge Course event and a dinner with the staff that worked with her that evening, she was struck by a car as she was riding her bike back home. She passed the following week. She donated many of her organs and was responsible for five other people having a chance at a longer life. This Student Leadership Award was established in her honor and memory. It is awarded to a student working with Campus Recreation who shares and displays the qualities of HalieAnn that made her such a magnetic person and amazing leader; and to someone who carries forth her legacy through their actions as a part of the Campus Recreation team.

Housing & Residence Life Awards

Rising Star Award

The Department of Housing and Residence Life Rising Star Awards are designed to recognize students who have demonstrated leadership excellence in their early tenure with ETSU and the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Rising Stars have held a leadership position within the Department of Housing and Residence Life and have lived on campus for two to four semesters. Student leaders receiving this award are recognized for making an impact in their halls and the campus community.

Rylee De Jarnett and Madysen Osborne

Distinguished Service Award

The Department of Housing and Residence Life Distinguished Service Awards are designed to recognize distinguished student leadership while serving ETSU and the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Student leaders receiving these awards are recognized for making the difference in and out of their residence halls during their tenure at ETSU. Recipients must have served the ETSU community through multiple student organizations; lived on campus for a three-and-a-half-year period or seven semesters; represented ETSU at one state, regional, or national housing conference; or participated in the Brenda White Wright Emerging Leaders Academy or LeaderShape, or served in a significant leadership role with a campus partner.

Beta Briest, Alauna Cole, and Noah Cole



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DEPARTMENT OF
Housing &
Residence Life

Preview and Orientation Leader Awards

2024 Returning Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Courtney Honnold
New Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Natalie Bush
Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Dane Anthony
2024 Unstoppable Award.....	Nichole Gonzalez
Hoot and Holler Award.....	Kenzie Lewis
2024 Above and Beyond Award.....	Lydia Morrison
New POLO Leader of the Year.....	John Statzer
2024 Returning POLO Leader of the Year.....	Gage Lathum
Dr. Bonnie Burchett Spirit of POLO Award	Sara Goodwin
Dr. Sally S. Lee POLO Leader of the Year Award.....	Jahlil White
2024 Dr. Jeff Howard POLO Intern of the Year Award.....	Matthew Kinsler



Fraternity & Sorority Awards

Order of Omega Academic Excellence Award – Alpha Delta Pi

The Order of Omega Academic Excellence Award is presented to the fraternity or sorority with a stellar academic record for the past year. Order of Omega exists to recognize and advance academic excellence as a core value of fraternities and sororities. Membership in Order of Omega is restricted to Junior and Senior, fraternity and sorority members with a cumulative GPA of a 3.5 or higher

Fraternity & Sorority Leader Awards

Outstanding Sorority New Member of the Year.....	Shelby Koerten, <i>Alpha Delta Pi</i>
Outstanding Fraternity New Member of the Year.....	Casey Fitzwater, <i>Sigma Chi</i>
Outstanding Fraternity Man of the Year.....	Dillon Minnix, <i>Beta Upsilon Chi</i>
Outstanding Sorority Woman of the Year.....	Elizabeth Arnett, <i>Kappa Delta</i>
Outstanding Panhellenic President.....	Skylar Brackett, <i>Sigma Kappa</i>
Outstanding East Tennessee Fraternity Council President	Cole Turner, <i>Sigma Phi Epsilon</i>
Outstanding National Pan-Hellenic Council President.....	Jaylen Hughes, <i>Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.</i>
National Pan-Hellenic Impact Award.....	Aaniyah Johnson, <i>Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.</i>
East Tennessee Fraternity Council Impact Award.....	Logan Napier, <i>Beta Upsilon Chi</i>
Panhellenic Impact Award.....	Gheed Al Saji, <i>Alpha Delta Pi</i>

Outstanding Overall Fraternity/Sorority

Outstanding Panhellenic Council Chapter.....	Kappa Delta
Outstanding East Tennessee Fraternity Council Chapter.....	Pi Kappa Alpha
Outstanding National Pan-Hellenic Council Chapter.....	Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

Student Government Association Awards

The Tait Obadiah White Award – Eliza Smith

This award is named for and in honor of Tait Obadiah White, who attended ETSU from 2011 to 2012 . Tait was an outstanding student leader and a member of the Student Government Association who passed away unexpectedly of a rare heart condition in October 2012. Each year since 2013, the Student Government Association has selected from its members an individual who emulates Tait’s commitment to servant leadership, someone whose spirit brings happiness to others, someone who gives of themselves, and someone who always helps others through small and simple actions. The award is presented annually and is selected by a vote of all SGA members.

Cabinet Member of the Year Award – Leah Loveday

The award is presented annually and is selected by the SGA president.

Associate Justice of the Year Award – Benjamin Cathey

The award is presented annually and is selected by the SGA president.

Senator of the Year Award – Noah Cole

The award is presented annually and is selected by the SGA president.

The Ronald & Edith J Carrier Student Government Leadership Award

Hunter Turgeon, Morgan Blazer, Matthew Sutphin, and Finnigan Shirley

Dr. Ronald E. Carrier served as president of James Madison University with his wife Edith by his side as first lady from 1971-1998. Ronald and Edith also served side-by-side years earlier in the Student Government Association at East Tennessee State University. In honor of their experience in student government at the university, Ronald and Edith established this award. This award includes a monetary gift and bronze medal worn on a blue and gold neck ribbon.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT
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Citi Leadership Scholarship Award

Aliyah Smith-Gomis, PJ Clark, and Henry Grey Fisher

The purpose of the Citi Leadership Scholarship is to provide incentive for students to participate in leadership development experiences. Scholarship funds are provided to help students pay to participate in local, national, or regional leadership education opportunities. This scholarship is funded in recognition of the ideals of leadership at Citi in Gray, Tennessee and to facilitate the development of future leaders of our society.

Dorman Stout Leadership Endowment Scholarship

Aashi Vora and Macie Lawrence

Dr. Dorman G. Stout was an icon of student life at ETSU and an alumnus, having graduated as a part of the class of 1952. Stout was the son of the longtime sociology professor for whom Roger-Stout Hall is named. He served as director of financial aid, assistant to the dean, dean of students, and then as vice president of student affairs until his retirement in 1996. He created this award to recognize outstanding student leadership. The award criteria denote that the student to be recognized will be active in leadership within organizations both on campus and within the community at large. The recipient will demonstrate the leadership traits and character of integrity represented by the life and service of Dr. Stout to East Tennessee State and to humankind.



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OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

The National Leadership Honor Society

Omicron Delta Kappa was the first college honor society of a national scope to give recognition and honor for meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and to encourage development of general campus citizenship. ETSU Buccaneers selected for ODK join the ranks of over 300,000 women and men whose peers recognize them as scholars and leaders. They are truly students who leave a significant impact on their university. A total of 12 outstanding students will be inducted in 2024.

As Co-Founder and Co-Director of Young Professionals On Campus (YPOC), **Alexandra Battle** has worked to bridge East Tennessee State University (ETSU) students with the greater Johnson City community, creating opportunities for professional development and civic engagement. Through YPOC, she has also served as the Johnson City Schools District PTA Reflections Chair, overseeing the national arts competition for K–12 students. In partnership with Johnson City’s government, Alexandra is establishing a student engagement series that connects students directly with city officials, encouraging involvement in local governance and decision-making. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to connection and impact, ensuring that students feel a sense of belonging not just at ETSU, but in Johnson City as well.

Taylor Corum has served ETSU in a variety of leadership roles, including Preview and Orientation Leader (POLO), Expedition Leader, Academic Coach, and Student Government Association Senator. Each of these roles has allowed her to uniquely impact the student body. As a POLO leader, she welcomed new students and supported their families. As an Expedition Leader, she showcased the university to prospective students. In her role as an Academic Coach, and later as Lead Academic Coach, she focused on students’ academic and personal success, planning training sessions for fellow coaches. As an SGA Senator and Chair of Student Affairs, Taylor authored legislation to support student safety and address food insecurity, while mentoring committee members. Her experiences have fueled her passion for student success and advocacy.

Drake Franklin has been deeply involved with the Pillar of Service to Campus and Community during his time at ETSU. He began his journey with POLO and quickly expanded his involvement to include all three organizations under the Office of Admissions. His passion for student engagement led him to become an Admissions Intern, focusing on improving the campus tour experience. A person of faith, Drake joined the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) and now serves on its leadership team. He is also a founding member of the Student Foundation Ambassadors, working closely with the ETSU Foundation, Annual Giving, and Alumni offices. Through these roles,

Drake has championed student resources, enhanced new student experiences, and modeled ETSU pride and service.

Hunter Ináncsi has been an active member of the ETSU campus community through involvement in the Students of Finance Association, Student Government Association, POLO, the Swashbucklers a cappella group, and Johnson City Parks and Recreation. As Treasurer of SOFA, he helped plan and fund the group's annual trip to New York for the Financial Management Association Conference. In SGA, he served on the Financial Affairs Committee and authored legislation to make BUC Fund distribution more equitable. As a performer, he sang a solo with the Swashbucklers at the annual Perfect Harmony concert. Hunter has also coached a youth soccer team for JC Parks and Recreation, mentoring young athletes on and off the field. His diverse contributions reflect a commitment to ETSU's core values.

Matthew Kinsler has served in a variety of leadership roles at ETSU, including President of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), Intern with the Preview and Orientation Leader Organization (POLO), SGA Senator for the College of Arts & Sciences, Expedition Leader, Alternative Break Site-Leader, Youth Director at Risen Life Fellowship, and Academic Coach. At BCM, he oversaw events such as a disaster relief training for over 400 community members. In SGA, he created ETSU's hand sign "Hooks up!" and helped establish the Pride Walk. As a POLO Intern, he revamped training materials and launched the Preview Olympics tradition. He also led a service-learning trip to New Orleans and continues to mentor youth at Risen Life Fellowship. His efforts have improved both campus and community.

Sarah Mohammed began her leadership journey at ETSU as a Preview and Orientation Leader, where she facilitated small groups and helped new students connect with campus resources and each other. She currently serves as a research assistant in the Social Issues and Relations Lab, contributing to projects on mental healthcare access and health equity. Sarah is also active in Volunteer ETSU and has participated in multiple Service Saturdays, Johnson City Beautification Days, and an alternative break focused on women's health. She supports the ETSU Weightlifting Team by connecting them to funding and media coverage and has organized events like a Diasporic Dialogue to build cross-cultural connections. Her service reflects a deep commitment to inclusion, student success, and community engagement.

Logan Napier has demonstrated a strong commitment to service through his leadership in the East Tennessee Fraternity Council and Beta Upsilon Chi fraternity. As President of the East Tennessee Fraternity Council, he worked with his vice president to plan community service events for ETSU fraternities. His previous role as IFC Vice President of Recruitment and his current role as New Member Educator reflect his dedication to supporting and mentoring others. Logan has also partnered with Habitat for Humanity to bring service opportunities to his fraternity. As a nursing major, he has planned and implemented public health interventions, including distributing educational materials and conducting home health visits to promote safety among elderly community members.

Taylor Rigsby has actively served both the ETSU campus and the broader community through her involvement with Alpha Omicron Pi, the Social Work Student Association (SSWA), and the Society of Collegiate Leadership and Achievement (SCLA). She has participated in a variety of service events, from arthritis awareness fundraisers to toy drives and letter-writing campaigns. As SSWA president, she led efforts to support the local homeless population, volunteering at soup kitchens and food pantries and organizing drives for hygiene and cold-weather items. As SCLA president, Taylor created a campus network and helped foster national connections through virtual meetings and career fairs. Her leadership reflects a commitment to advocacy and connection.

Nat Vaughn has made significant contributions to campus and community through her leadership and activism. She has served as President of ETSU's Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA), where she helped establish the Trans Affirming Care Fund to support transgender students. As Community Outreach Coordinator for the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), she secured a \$10,000 grant to provide Plan B and contraceptives to students in need. Natalie is also a Steering Committee member for Tri-Cities Mutual Aid Network, which hosts bi-monthly free stores for unhoused individuals. Additionally, she has held leadership roles in Students STRONG, Up-Buc ETSU (Improv), and is a member of ETSU Patchwork Players. Her writing has been featured in *The Activist*.

Katelyn Whitwell has served as a Resident Assistant at ETSU since August 2023, creating a welcoming environment for students through social events and peer support. She has hosted events such as Connections and Circles to foster community among residents and has served as a resource for students navigating stressful times. Beyond housing, Katelyn volunteers with Ballard Health and ETSU Health Bridge (formerly ETSU Street Clinic). She also serves as Chair of Education for the Appalachian Reproductive Health Association, organizing educational events like a Spring Break Safety Program that drew over 120 attendees. Her leadership reflects a dedication to wellness, education, and student support.



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“The Summit: A Celebration of Distinguished Student Leaders and Programs” celebrates the superior accomplishments of students outside the classroom. It recognizes student organization presidents and advisors, community service efforts, campus programs, and outstanding student leaders at East Tennessee State University.

Chosen by a committee of students, faculty, and staff, the name of the event — “The Summit” — refers to the attainment of the highest possible level of achievement. It visually invokes an image of the topmost point of a mountain, reaching the pinnacle of success by overcoming many obstacles and challenges along the way.

Congratulations to all Summit Award Recipients