



# **24th Annual Summit Awards**

**April 21, 2026**

D.P. Culp Student Center Ballroom  
Johnson City, TN

# Program Agenda

Welcome.....	Carter Warden <i>Director of Student Activities &amp; Organizations</i>
Opening remarks.....	Dr. Brian Noland <i>President of East Tennessee State University</i>
Nominee Recognition.....	John Statzer & Kelsey Gilchrease
President & Advisor Recognition, Outstanding Advisor Awards.....	Daylin Karlton & Aarna Patel
Outstanding President Awards.....	John Statzer & Kelsey Gilchrease
Shea Keane Peace Builder Award.....	Nathan Farnor <i>Community Engagement Specialist</i>
Housing and Residence Life Awards.....	Dr. Adrianna Guram
Rising Star Awards & Distinguished Service Awards	<i>Associate Director of Residence Life</i>
Most Improved Student Organization & The One to Watch in 2026.....	Lexi Petrak <i>Director of the Welcome Center</i>
Outstanding Programs and Program of the Year .....	Tyler Parker <i>Director of New Student &amp; Family Programs</i>
Unsung Heroes Recognition.....	B. Dye <i>Coordinator of Leadership &amp; Civic Engagement</i>
Halie Ann Rex Student Leadership Award.....	Eric Payne & Ansley Reed <i>Assistant Director of Outdoor Adventure, 2025 Recipient of Award</i>
Order of Omega Academic Excellence Awards.....	Bryce Hopkins & Zack Sholes
Fraternity/Sorority Leader Awards	<i>Director and Coordinator of Fraternity &amp; Sorority Life</i>
Jan Phillips Mentor Awards.....	Cole Boyd <i>2025-2026 President, Sigma Chi Fraternity</i>
Ronald & Edith J. Carrier & Tate Obadiah White Awards.....	Dr. Michelle Byrd <i>Associate Vice President &amp; Dean of Students</i>
Student Government Association Awards	
Cabinet Member of the Year.....	Shelby Koerten <i>2025-2026 SGA President</i>
Associate Justice of the Year.....	Reagan Faison <i>2025 SGA Chief Justice</i>
Senator of the Year.....	Taylor Laymon <i>2025-2026 SGA Executive Vice President</i>
Trent White Award.....	Shelby Koerten
Citi Leadership Scholarship & Dorman G. Stout Student Leadership Award.....	Dr. Leah Adinolfi
Knox TVA Credit Union Outstanding Treasurer Award	<i>Dean of Student Engagement</i>
Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority of the Year and Impact Awards.....	Bryce Hopkins & Zack Sholes <i>Director and Coordinator of Fraternity &amp; Sorority Life</i>
Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society.....	Joy Fulkerson <i>Director of Leadership &amp; Civic Engagement</i>
Closing	

## 2025 Outstanding Student Organization Presidents

Academic Organization President .....Isabella Sterrett  
*The Philosophy Club*

Faith-Based Organization President.....Chloe Paige  
*Baptist Collegiate Ministry*

Special Interest Organization President.....Sarah Stefan  
*The Swift Society*

Service Based Organization President.....Gracee DeJarnette  
*International Justice Mission*

Athletic Organization President .....Reese Gatewood  
*The Pickleball Club*

## 2025 Outstanding Student Organization Advisors

Academic Organization Advisor .....Dr. Courtney Andrews  
*Pre Speech Language Pathology Club*

Fraternity/Sorority Advisor.....Ceara Cogan  
*Kappa Delta*

Service Organization Advisor.....Dr. Cheri Clavier  
*Bucs for St. Jude*

Special Interest Organization Advisor.....Kelsey Shubert  
*Child Life on Campus*

## 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.

Noah White, Lincoln Burroughs, Riley Ditty, Ruthie Toombs, Hunter Inancsi, Kamryn Martin, Kaitlyn Goodman, Haden Mckinnis, Lindsay Burns

## 2025 Shae Keane Peacebuilder Award – Emma Hurley

An active leader and dedicated advocate for community service, this year's recipient has demonstrated a strong commitment to social justice and improving the lives of others. As the founder of the Appalachian Care Initiative, they have worked to provide essential hygiene products to children facing poverty across the Appalachian region, helping to restore confidence and dignity among underserved youth. They further expanded their impact through the "Stuff the Bus" initiative, collecting school supplies for children in Southwest Virginia.

In addition to these efforts, they have remained committed to ongoing service by restocking a personal care closet at their former high school, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and actively participating in Alpha Delta Pi's philanthropic initiatives. Their work reflects a deep dedication to addressing community needs through compassion, leadership, and meaningful action, empowering others and creating lasting change throughout the region.

## Most Improved Student Organizations of 2025 – Alpha Omicron Pi

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

## The One to Watch! 2025 – Appalachian Self-Reliance Coalition

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 2025 calendar (Jan-Dec) year.

## 2025 Jan Phillips Mentor Award – Rachel Swatzell

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 2025 Calendar Year.

## Halie Ann Rex Student Leadership Award – Reese Gatewood

The Halia Ann rex Student Leadership Award was established in 2025 through the deeply generous donations of many friends and family of HalieAnn. 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.

# Outstanding Programs and 2025 Program of the Year

Outstanding Service Program.....Well a Palooza  
Hosted by: Public Health Student Association

Outstanding Educational Program.....Mentor Match  
Hosted by: Young Professionals on Campus

Outstanding New Program .....Bucky's Food Pantry Donation  
Hosted by: Kappa Sigma

Outstanding Social Event.....ETSU-Con  
Hosted by: Steering Committee of ETSUCon

Outstanding Diversity Event.....Speaking Queerly  
Hosted by: Tri Lota

2025 Overall Program of the Year.....Destination Desi  
Hosted by: South Asian Student Association

# 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 2-4 semesters. Student leaders receiving this award are recognized for making an impact in their halls and the campus community.

Burak Baskir  
Nathan Castelloe  
Kaylie Henderson  
Shelby Holsberry  
Tommy Johnson

Nancy Lazo  
Gerald Nhakura  
Mia Rodriguez  
Alvidrez  
Joshua Samuriwo  
Cadence Scholten

Mackenzie  
Strickland  
Donnavan  
Thomas  
Jacob Wilson

## Dr. Bonnie Burchett 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.

Ipin Akintola  
Allie Berg

Gabby Escudero  
OT Harris

Sierra Hicks-Reed  
Kaylee Miller



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF  
Housing &  
Residence Life

# Preview and Orientation Leader Awards

2025 Dr. Melissa Dagley New Orientation Leader of the Year .....	Maddie Moore
2025 Returning Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Natalie Bush
2025 Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Dillon Harris
2025 Unstoppable Award.....	Thomas Bales
The Hoot and Holler Award.....	Beverly Larkin
The Above and Beyond Award.....	Cole Hooven
New POLO Leader of the Year.....	Aubree Glenn
Returning POLO Leader of the Year.....	John Statzer
Dr. Jeff Howard POLO Intern of the Year Award.....	Nick Jerman



# Volunteer ETSU Impact Awards

## **Student Organization Changemaker Award**

This exemplary student group shows a significant dedication to making a lasting impact in Appalachia and the surrounding area through community service and uplifting the values and mission of ETSU to improve the quality of life for those in the region.

**Graduate.....Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSA)**

**Undergraduate.....Bucs 4 St. Jude**

## **Service Saturday Partner of the Year – SMILE Foster Closet**

The Service Saturday Site Recognition Award honors a non-profit organization or community partner that has demonstrated exceptional dedication and collaboration with ETSU's Service Saturday events. This award celebrates a community partner who has played a key role in supporting and enhancing the success of Service Saturday by providing invaluable resources, guidance, and opportunities for students to actively engage in meaningful service. Through their commitment to creating positive change, this organization has helped make a lasting impact on the local community, fostering stronger connections between ETSU and its neighbors. The Service Saturday Site Recognition Award acknowledges this partner's extraordinary contributions to the spirit of service and community engagement.

## **Outstanding Community Service Impact Award – Phi Alpha Nu for National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**

This award honors a student-led program that demonstrates exceptional commitment to community service and meaningful impact. The recognized program goes beyond traditional volunteerism by thoughtfully addressing a community's needs and engaging participants in purposeful, well-organized service. While the program may collaborate with an external organization, the focus of this award is on the program's design, implementation, and effectiveness in supporting the community. The recipient exemplifies creativity, compassion, and a strong dedication to improving the lives of others through high-quality, student-driven service.

## **Fraternity and Sorority Life Community Impact Award – Alpha Omicron Pi**

The Fraternity and Sorority Life Award recognizes a fraternity or sorority that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to service and volunteerism through their active involvement in Volunteer ETSU events. This award celebrates a Fraternity or Sorority organization that has consistently upheld the values of community engagement, leadership, and philanthropy, making a lasting impact on both the ETSU campus and the surrounding community. Through their dedication to service, this organization has inspired its members and others to participate in meaningful volunteer opportunities, fostering a culture of giving back and social responsibility. The Fraternity and Sorority Life Award honors their significant contributions to Volunteer ETSU and their continued commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

## **Student Community Coordinator Graduation Recognition and Cord Presentation**

Hannah Grubb, Bekah Moody, Jessica Rubino, Sammi Shuman, Jaxen Waggoner, Emma Marie Wilson

# Fraternity & Sorority Awards

## Gamma Sigma Alpha Academic Excellence Award - Alpha Delta Pi

Gamma Sigma Alpha National Academic Greek Honor Society (GSA) is the premier organization committed to the academic success of sorority and fraternity members and alignment with the academic missions of the host institution. Students are eligible for membership based on grade point average and membership in a Greek fraternity or sorority.

The Gamma Sigma Alpha Academic Excellence Awards recognize the fraternity or sorority with the highest overall membership cumulative GPA from the two semesters prior to the awarding term.

## Fraternity & Sorority Leader Awards

Outstanding Sorority New Member of the Year.....Anna Ward  
Alpha Xi Delta

Outstanding Fraternity New Member of the Year.....Lincoln Cissell  
Beta Upsilon Chi

Outstanding Fraternity Man of the Year.....Logan Napier  
Beta Upsilon Chi

Outstanding Sorority Woman of the Year.....Gheed Al Saji  
Alpha Delta Pi

Outstanding Panhellenic President.....Macie Lawrence  
Alpha Omicron Pi

Outstanding East Tennessee Fraternity Council President .....Cole Boyd  
Sigma Chi

Outstanding National Pan-Hellenic Council President.....Daniel Owens  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

## Outstanding Overall Fraternity/Sorority

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

# *Student Government Association Awards*

## **The Tait Obadiah White Award – Savannah Henry**

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 – Kendall Robertson**

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

## **Associate Justice of the Year Award – Ali Aglan**

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

## **Senator of the Year Award – Katie McLain**

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

## **Trent White SGA Leadership Award - Aashi Vora**

The Trent White SGA Leadership Award is a scholarship given annually to a senior who exemplifies the leadership, service, and character that Trent White embodied during his extraordinary journey at ETSU.



## **Dorman Stout Student Leadership Scholarship**

Each year the Division of Student Life & Enrollment offers a \$1,000 Scholarship in honor of Dr. Dorman G. Stout, Jr. Dr. Stout was an icon of student life at ETSU and an alumnus, having graduated as part of the class of 1952. Stout was the son of the longtime sociology professor for whom the Stout in Rogers-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.

Mikaela Pellerin

Ijeoma Chukwu Amaechi

Thomas Bales

## **Citi Leadership Scholarship**

The purpose of the Citi Leadership Scholarship is to provide incentive and support for students to participate in leadership development experiences beyond the classroom. Scholarship funds are provided by Citi, a global organization with opportunities just down the road in Gray Tennessee, 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 espoused by Citi, and to facilitate the development of future leaders of our society.

Mei Lin Dye  
Jared Huff  
Savannah Henry  
Chloe Campbell

Kaytlin Hoxie  
Aubree Glen  
Gracie Mia Wright  
Ifedolapo Aderibigbe

## **Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union Outstanding Treasurer Scholarship - Aastha Chaudhari**

Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union is committed to supporting ETSU students and promote financial literacy initiatives. Empowering and publicly recognizing outstanding Treasurers promotes the importance of their position within the governing body of student organizations, and beyond. \$1,000 is awarded to a returning student leader who has served or is serving in a financial management role with a registered student organization at ETSU.



# 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 7 outstanding students will be inducted in 2023.

***Ipinoluwa Akintola*** is a Media and Communications major with minors in Digital Marketing and Criminal Justice. She has served as National Student Representative for the American Forensic Association and competed nationally with ETSU's Speech and Debate Team, earning honors including AFA National Impromptu Speaking Quarterfinalist and District 6 Best Impromptu Speaker. Ipinoluwa has co-authored a peer-reviewed publication on crisis communication, contributed to the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology's "Biotech Across America" Roadshow, and currently supports strategic communications through the ETSU Media Lab.

***Cole Boyd*** served this year as President of Sigma Chi and Secretary of Allocations for the Student Government Association, and previously served as an SGA Senator. He is also an Expedition Leader and has been active in campus engagement through intramural sports and organizing outdoor activities. Cole has contributed to community service efforts including Rise Up for Kids, Hurricane Helene cleanup, and volunteer work with Southside Elementary School, and has been selected for study abroad in Tbilisi, Georgia and Russian language study with Indiana University.

***Gracee DeJarnette*** has been President of the ETSU Mock Trial Team and founder of ETSU International Justice Mission, which hosted five events and raised over \$3,000 for anti-trafficking efforts. She has served as a Student Government Association senator, contributing to BUC Fund accessibility, food recovery, and student leadership initiatives, and was selected to deliver an ETSU TEDx talk on growth mindset. A Global Citizen Scholar, Gracee has studied abroad in Ghana, France, and England, including serving as a student lead for the Global Handshakes program, and is also an Honors College and Study Abroad Ambassador

***Dillon Harris*** is an Exercise Science major on the pre-physical therapy track with a minor in General Business and a recipient of the Public Service Corps Scholarship. He has served as a Programming Intern with Virtual Enterprise International, a POLO Leader and Intern supporting new student orientation, a Buccaneer Involvement Guide and a graduate of the Dr. Brenda White Wright Emerging Leaders Academy. Dillon is also active as an Expedition Leader and Student Foundation Ambassador, has competed with the Ultimate Frisbee Club Team, coached Women's Club Lacrosse, volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club, and serves as Mr. 423 with ETSU Athletics Marketing

**Jared Huff** serves as Executive Vice President of the ETSU Mock Trial Team, leading case preparation and coordinating evidence analysis for competition. He has held multiple roles in Student Government Association, including Secretary of the Interior, Associate Justice, and Senator, where he oversaw elections and interpreted governing documents, and he is a founder of the Legal Storytelling Society. Jared is also involved as a Student Foundation Ambassador, Study Abroad Ambassador, and JED Foundation Advisory Committee member, and has contributed to campus engagement through the TEDxETSU Speakers Committee and leadership roles in Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity.

**Shelby Koerten** is a Communication Studies major and serves as Student Government Association President, representing students on the ETSU Alumni Board and University Council. She has held multiple leadership roles including SGA Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Academic Council member, and College of Arts and Sciences Senator, and is a Roan Scholar who has participated in service initiatives in Wisconsin and New Orleans. Shelby is also a co-founder of the Johnson City Junior Council, a member of Alpha Delta Pi's International Collegiate Advisory Committee, and a recipient of honors including the Alpha Delta Pi International Emerging Leader Award and ETSU New Sorority Member of the Year.

**Taylor Layman** serves as Student Government Association Student Body Vice President and Treasurer of ETSU's Global Brigades chapter, through which he has participated in service trips to Guatemala and Panama. She has conducted research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory on neuroendocrine tumors, completed projects on Alzheimer's-related gene modulation, and is currently developing an open-source bioreactor design. Taylor is also a member of the ETSU Rock Climbing Club Team, a former publicist for the Engineering Club, and has participated in the ETSU Marching Bucs.



“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!**