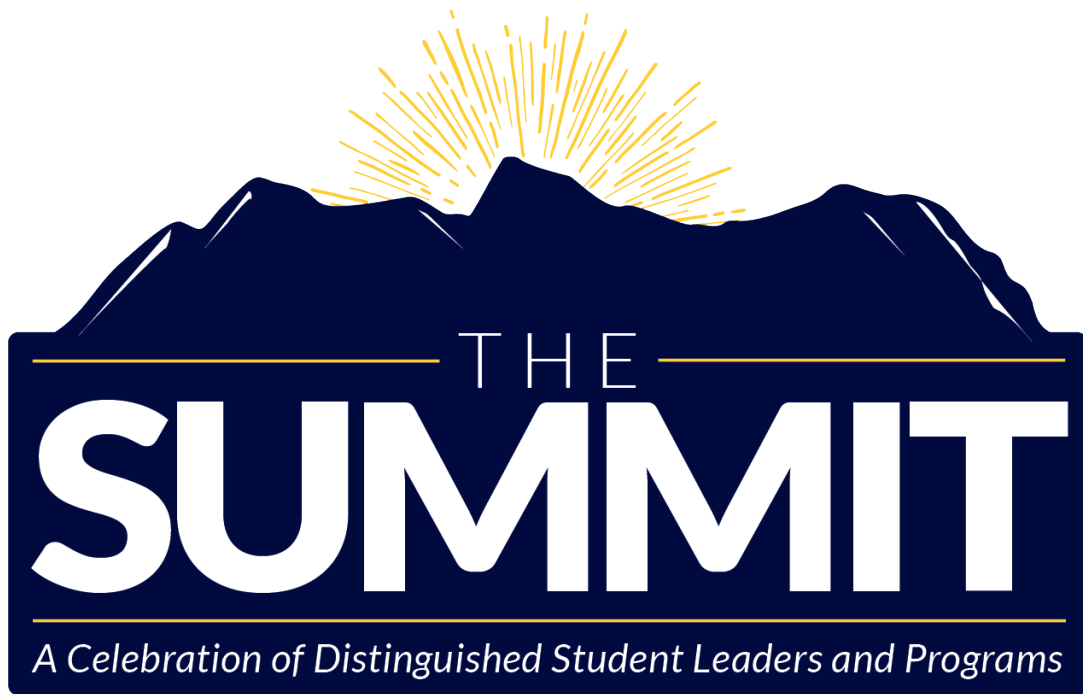




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EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
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**22nd Annual Summit Awards**

**April 18, 2024**

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

# Program Agenda

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Welcome.....	Dr. Joe Sherlin <i>Vice President for Student Life &amp; Enrollment</i>
President and Advisor Recognition.....	Kaci Rae Bartley & Hunter Jones
Outstanding Advisors & Outstanding Presidents Award.....	Carter Warden & Don Armstrong <i>Director of Student Activities &amp; Organizations and Director of Student Media</i>
Shea Keane Peace Builder Award.....	Nathan Farnor <i>Coordinator of Leadership &amp; Civic Engagement</i>
Housing and Residence Life Distinguished Service Awards.....	Stephanie Hill Skerlak <i>Assistant Director of Housing Operations</i>
Student Organization Awards.....	Caelan Peterson <i>Coordinator for Student Engagement</i>
Most Improved Student Organization The One to Watch! 2024	
Outstanding Programs and Program of the Year.....	Trish Caughran <i>Assistant Director of Family Programs</i>
Unsung Heroes Recognition.....	Kaci Rae Bartley and Hunter Jones
Order of Omega Academic Excellence Awards .....	Zack Sholes <i>Coordinator of Fraternity &amp; Sorority Life</i>
Fraternity/Sorority Leader Awards	
Jan Phillips Mentor Awards.....	Brady Adams <i>2023-2024 President, Sigma Chi Fraternity</i>
Student Government Association Awards .....	Trent White <i>2023-2024 SGA President</i>
Student Success Champions Justice of the Year	Cabinet Member of the Year Senator of the Year
Ronald & Edith J Carrier & Tate Obadiah White Awards.....	Dr. Michelle Byrd <i>Assistant Vice President &amp; Dean of Students</i>
Citi Leadership Scholarship.....	Dr. Leah Adinolfi <i>Dean of Student Engagement</i>
Dorman G. Stout Student Leadership Award	
Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority of the Year Awards.....	Haeleah Lester <i>Assistant Director of Student Activities and Fraternity/Sorority Life</i>
Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society.....	Joy Fulkerson <i>Director of Leadership and Civic Engagement</i>
Closing .....	Dr. Brian Noland <i>President</i>

## 2024 Outstanding Student Organization Presidents

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Academic Organization President.....	Megan Walker Phi Sigma Pi
Athletic Organization President.....	Hunter Jones BucWild
Faith-Based Organization President.....	Makenzie Souder Baptist Collegiate Ministry
Special Interest Organization President.....	Ben Merritt Association for Computing Machinery
Service Oriented Organization President.....	Spencer Sheets Volunteer ETSU
University-Sponsored Organization President.....	Natalie Hogan Buctainment

## 2024 Outstanding Student Organization Advisors

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Academic Organization Advisor.....	Whitney Oliver Health Administration Student Association
Fraternity/Sorority Advisor.....	Zach Thompson Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and National Pan-Hellenic Council
Special Interest Organization Advisor.....	Caelan Peterson PartyBucs
University-Sponsored Organization Advisor.....	Stephanie Hill Skerlak Residence Hall Association

## 2024 Unsung Hero Award

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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.

Thomas Bales  
Braden Ball  
Madi Clower

Olivia Fawcett  
Rebekah Williams  
Kieran Yra

## 2024 Shae Keane Peacebuilder Award – Jeremy Dubhros

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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.

Jeremy Dubhros is the former president and current Delegate at Large for Students for Appalachian Studies. Jeremy used his work as a Sociology M.A. candidate in collaboration with Students for Appalachian Studies to offer a Veteran's Fair in Spring 2023. This event was an overwhelming success for the community partners who work with and benefit veterans, and the community praised how beneficial the fair was in not only helping veterans be aware of community services and opportunities but in also creating community. Jeremy also expands his work in harm reduction around veteran suicide, homelessness rates, and substance abuse.

# Most Improved Student Organization of 2024 – Sigma Kappa

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

## The One to Watch! 2024 – South Asian Student Association

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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 2023 calendar (Jan-Dec) year.

## 2024 Jan Phillips Mentor Award – Dr. Christine Anzur - Dept. of Communication Studies & Storytelling

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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 2023 calendar year.

## Outstanding Programs and 2024 Program of the Year

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Best New Program of the Year.....	Johnson City Beautification Day Hosted by: Volunteer ETSU
Outstanding Educational Program.....	100th Anniversary of the East Tennessean Hosted by: East Tennessean
Outstanding Social Program.....	Small Business Fashion Farmers Market Hosted by: Collegiate Merchandising Association
Outstanding Service Program .....	Island Party Hosted by: Beta Upsilon Chi
Outstanding Diversity Program.....	Diwali Holiday Fest Hosted by: South Asian Student Association
Overall Program of the Year.....	Buc Block Hosted by: PartyBucs

# Housing & Residence Life Awards

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

Ipin Akintola  
Alauna Cole  
Joelle Oates  
Aria Schoon

J.D. Stokely  
Kayla Thrasher  
Estreya Whitney-Cuervo

## 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.

Rieli Cox  
Hayden Dean  
Kymberly Kirkpatrick  
August Obenschain  
Raven Rhue  
Brandon Yarber

# RIHA

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Housing and Residence Life

# Preview and Orientation Leader Awards

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2023 Returning Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Emily Wendling
2023 Orientation Leader of the Year.....	Brady Adams
2023 Unstoppable Award.....	Daniel Escarcega
2023 Hoot and Holler Award.....	Sara Goodwin
2023 Above and Beyond Award.....	Drake Franklin
2023 New POLO Leader of the Year.....	Gage Lathum
2023 Returning POLO Leader of the Year.....	Matthew Kinsler
2023 Dr. Bonnie Burchett Spirit of POLO Award .....	Jahlil White
2023 Dr. Sally S. Lee POLO Leader of the Year Award.....	Kaci Rae Bartley
2023 Dr. Melissa Dagley New Orientation Leader of the Year Award.....	Chris Watkins
2023 Dr. Jeff Howard POLO Intern of the Year Award.....	Mattie Smith



# Fraternity & Sorority Awards

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## Order of Omega Academic Excellence Award - Kappa Delta

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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

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Outstanding Sorority New Member of the Year.....	Aashi Vora Alpha Delta Pi
Outstanding Fraternity New Member of the Year.....	Kaleb Wilkins Pi Kappa Alpha
Outstanding Fraternity Man of the Year.....	Omokheshi Adurodija Alpha Sigma Phi
Outstanding Sorority Woman of the Year.....	Brooke Patterson Alpha Delta Pi
Outstanding Panhellenic President.....	Hazlee Kleine Sigma Kappa
Outstanding Interfraternity Council President.....	Thomas Hall Sigma Phi Epsilon
Outstanding National Pan-Hellenic Council President.....	Kennedy Averhart Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
National Pan-Hellenic Impact Award.....	Jaylen Hughes Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Interfraternity Council Impact Award.....	Brady Adams Sigma Chi
Panhellenic Impact Award.....	Cadee Warren Alpha Delta Pi

## Outstanding Overall Fraternity/Sorority

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Outstanding Panhellenic Council Chapter.....	Kappa Delta
Outstanding Interfraternity Council Chapter.....	Sigma Phi Epsilon
Outstanding National Pan-Hellenic Council Chapter.....	Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

# *Student Government Association Awards*

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## **The SGA Student Success Champion Award - Carter Warden, Theresa Marlow, & Dr. Michelle Byrd**

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The SGA Student Success Champion award is given to faculty or staff member who has gone above and beyond to support student leaders in the SGA. Champions are committed to developing students into citizens who will contribute to their campus, their community and their world. They invest substantial time in the discussion and exploration of ideas. They consider the vision of SGA members and help students navigate toward achieving those goals. In the end, they care, and our campus is a better place because of them.

## **The Tait Obadiah White Award – Brooke Patterson**

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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 – Morgan Blazer**

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

## **Associate Justice of the Year Award – Taylor Parsons**

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

## **Senator of the Year Award – Samuel Adenekan**

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



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Student Government Association



## The Ronald & Edith J Carrier Student Government Leadership Award

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Brooke Patterson  
Macy Strader  
Noah Cole

Trent White  
Sam Hensley

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.

## Citi Leadership Scholarship Award

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Emma Hynson

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

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Taylor Rigsby

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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STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION

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# OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

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## 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.

**Morgan Blazer** is an active student at ETSU with a passion for academic excellence and community engagement. She serves as a supplemental instruction leader and academic coach at ETSU, supporting her peers in their academic endeavors. Morgan has also contributed to university research as an undergraduate research assistant and coordinated a nutrition panel featuring local experts. Outside of academics, she has been involved in health education, serving as a health presenter at the VA Health Fair and an Alternative Break site leader. Morgan's leadership extends to coaching the Newport Cocke County Rapids Swim Team, serving as chief of staff for Student Government Association, and interning at organizations like Good Samaritan Ministries and A Step Ahead Foundation. Her diverse experiences demonstrate her commitment to making a positive impact both on campus and in the community.

**AQ Hanna** is an accomplished student at ETSU, holding the titles of Bert C. Bach Fine & Performing Arts scholar and Mary V. Jordan Diversity scholar. She has consistently made the Dean's List since 2022 and has taken on leadership roles such as residential advisor, public relations officer for the ETSU Asian American Student Association, and vice president of the ETSU Creative Writing Society. Hanna is also an active member of the 411 team, an Expedition leader, and an organizer for TEDxETSU. Her passion for writing is evident through her publications in journals like The Aurora Journal, Yuzu Press, and The Mockingbird Poetry Prize in 2024. Despite her busy schedule, Hanna remains committed to academic excellence, creative expression and community involvement at ETSU.

**Hazlee Kleine** is a dedicated student at ETSU with a passion for research, leadership and community engagement. She presented her research at the Appalachian Student Research Forum and has been an active participant in Sigma Kappa intramural sports, serving as team captain for basketball in 2023 and participating in volleyball, football and softball in previous years. In leadership roles, Hazlee has served as president and vice president of Sigma Kappa Gamma Lambda Chapter, secretary of allocations for the Student Government Association, and senator from 2020-2022. She is also involved in various organizations including Health Occupations Students of America, Christian Medical and Dental Association, AMSA, National Society of Leadership and Service, and the Student Social Work Association. Hazlee's academic achievements include making the fall Dean's List in 2020 and the spring Dean's List in 2022 & 2023, and she has been honored with the Ronald & Edith J Carrier Student Government Award.

**Dillon Minnix** is a prominent leader at ETSU. He has been an active member of the Honors College, serving as an ambassador in both 2022 and 2023. Dillon's leadership skills are further demonstrated through his involvement with Interfraternity Council, where he has held the position of vice president of financial affairs. In 2024, Dillon's leadership reached new heights as he was elected president of the Interfraternity Council. His fraternity recognizes his dedication and leadership, nominating him as their representative for Fraternity Man of the Year. Dillon's commitment to service and leadership continues to make a significant impact at ETSU.

**Kiran Nieves-Noel** is an accomplished student leader at East Tennessee State University, serving as the president of the Model United Nations and Vice President of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political honor society. Alongside her academic and leadership roles, Kiran has also excelled in the community, earning the first runner-up title in the Miss Kingsport/Miss Sullivan County pageant. Additionally, she has been recognized at the Cultural Leadership Summit via the Department of State Alumni. Kiran's diverse experiences showcase her commitment to academic excellence, community engagement and leadership both on campus and beyond.

**Dhara Patel** is an active student leader at ETSU with a strong commitment to health care, research and community service. She has served as a secretary for the Allied Health Student Association, assisting new students in navigating opportunities within the health care field, and has been involved in undergraduate research on pharmacology, addiction and operant psychology. Dhara presented her research at the national Society for Neuroscience conference, representing ETSU. Additionally, she has demonstrated leadership as a three-year member of the Preview and Orientation Leader Organization and has participated in campus and local cleanups with the Student Environmental Health Association. Dhara has also contributed to community service projects with Circle K International, and volunteered at a facility caring for traumatic brain injury victims. She was selected to speak on a panel at a new student Preview event, sharing her experiences and insights with incoming students.

**Brooke Patterson** is a political science major at ETSU and a standout student leader. She has held key roles within the Student Government Association, including executive vice president, senator and associate justice. As a leader in Alpha Delta Pi, Brooke has served as president and vice president, earning awards such as Most Outstanding New Sorority Member in 2020, the Dorothy Shaw Leadership Award, and Chapter of the Year. Her advocacy skills are evident as a two-time student lobbyist, representing both Alpha Delta Pi and Greek Life. Brooke's leadership extends to Women in Political Science, where she served as vice president and she was selected for the evaluation of the political science program. As a pioneer ETSU Ambassador, she was among 25 selected for this elite program. Brooke's commitment to service includes volunteering at the Southern Appalachian Ronald McDonald House and serving as a Red Coat Ambassador for the Veterans Affairs Hospital. Her academic excellence is reflected in her consistent placement on the Dean's List, and she is a participant in the Honors College Changemakers Program. With her nomination for Most Outstanding Sorority Woman in 2023, Brooke's impact and leadership at ETSU are undeniable.

**Finn Shirley** is an engaged student at ETSU. He collaborated with the Changemaking director to create a "Changemaking Abroad" study abroad program and led efforts to compile a mental health resource database for students. Academically, Finnigan has written research papers on topics like Russian politics and Chinese politics. Outside the classroom, he maintains an active lifestyle through hockey, tennis, climbing and soccer. Finnigan's leadership extends to his fraternity, where he organizes service projects, and the Student Government Association, where he serves as a senator and participates in various committees. He has volunteered at the Johnson City

Veterans Affairs Medical Center and led service initiatives as a Preview leader. Additionally, Finnigan is an active member of the Pre-Law Society and gained legal experience as a runner for Hunter, Smith, and Davis. Despite his busy schedule, Finnigan remains focused on academic excellence and community service at ETSU.

**Abigail Simpson** is an accomplished student at ETSU with a 4.0 GPA. She is actively involved in campus research and serves as a clogging instructor and manager at a local dance studio, overseeing operations and teaching students aged 2-21, and choreographing routines. At ETSU, Abigail is a member of several clubs including the Rehabilitative Health Sciences Club, ETSU Letters of Love, and the ASHA Club, and she is scholar in the Roan Scholarship Leadership Program. As a Preview and Orientation leader for three years, she choreographed a dance for a regional conference and initiated a memorial blanket project for COVID-19 victims. Abigail has also engaged in community service through Alternative Breaks and internships, leads a program at her home high school, organizes book drives, and volunteers at Johnson City Medical Center. Additionally, she is a competitive dancer and choreographer, performing nationally and internationally, including in the London New Year's Day Parade with America's Clogging All Stars.

**Hailey Story** is a Global Citizen Scholar at ETSU's Honors College, majoring in a field to be specified. Her commitment to global citizenship is showcased through extensive study-abroad experiences, including courses in London, Dublin and Paris, totaling 15 credits on human rights and global citizenship. Hailey has demonstrated strong leadership within the Student Government Association, serving as senator, parliamentarian and chief justice. She has also excelled in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, receiving accolades for the best overall delegation and contributing as an associate justice and student lawyer. In her sorority, Sigma Kappa, Hailey has held roles like vice president of programming and chapter housing chair, while also gaining professional experience as a congressional intern and expedition leader. Despite taking a semester abroad in fall 2023, Hailey's commitment to academics, leadership and service remains unwavering.

**Shaina Thompson** is a dedicated student leader at ETSU, participating in the Roan Scholars Leadership Program and serving as a second year POLO leader. She founded the on-campus initiative, Letters of Love at ETSU, and has organized events promoting compassion, unity and love. Shaina is actively working to charter it as an official organization and has spoken at campus events about the power of spreading kindness. Additionally, she has volunteered as interpreter at a local high school, facilitated youth leadership at her church for three years, and participated in Alternative Breaks as a freshman. Shaina's commitment to leadership, community service and academic excellence is further demonstrated by her consistent placement on the Dean's List and membership in the Phi Alpha Nu Social Work Honor Society.

**Caleb Vaughn** is a dynamic student at ETSU involved in Mock Trial as a senior advisor and the Pre-Law Society, showcasing his interest in law and debate. He's an active member of the Honors College and has enriched his education through a study abroad program. On campus, Caleb leads as a Preview and Orientation leader, Expedition Leader, and as a Bucfluencer, connecting with the ETSU community. In the arts, he's part of the Fine and Performing Arts Honors Program, having performed in notable productions like "Straight White Men," "Bright Star," "The Curious Incident of the Dog In The Night Time," and "Little Shop of Horrors," earning a double nomination for the Irene Ryan Award. His Mock Trial team achievements include winning the Owl Classic Mock Trial Competition and securing a regional competition bid.



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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!**