



2015 VSU Student Organizations Excellence Program

1. THE PROGRAM:

The **Student Organizations Excellence program** is an initiative of the Office of Student Life. The program cultivates and supports student learning and development through co-curricular activities, training, policy enforcement, advocacy and serving as a resource to the university's 200 plus registered student organizations.

2. THE AWARDS:

The **Organization Excellence Awards** is a collection of awards in various categories which recognizes exemplary student leaders and student organizations that fulfill their mission while making exceptional contributions to student development and the VSU community.

3. EXCELLENCE PROGRAM CRITERIA:

The Organizations Excellence criteria are used to measure an organization's progress in areas of organizational effectiveness, leadership, diversity, creativity, teamwork and service. Each measurement has a responding value which totals 150 excellence points.

4. EXCELLENCE AWARDS CATEGORIES:

ORGANIZATIONS

- Student Organizations of Excellence
- New Student Organization of the Year
- Community Service Project of the Year
- Valdosta State University Student Organization of the Year
- Diversity / Multicultural Project of the Year

MEMBERS & ADVISORS

- Blaze Leadership Award
- Volunteer of the Year
- President of the Year
- Advisor of the Year

CONTACT

For more information, contact Alisha Stabler, in the Office of Student Life.
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Organization Excellence Program Criteria

| Type of Event | Event | Requirement for Credit | Points |
|--|---|--|-------------|
| Student Organization Development | Fall Mandatory Organization Meeting | Attended by at least 1 organization officer and the campus advisor | 2 |
| | Fall Professional Networking Mixer | Attended by at least one org. member or officer | 2/date |
| | Fall Presidents Round Table | Attended at least once by the President or officer | 2/date |
| | Fall Curriculum Menu Training | Register for and complete one Curriculum Training through Student Life. Limited Availability | 2 |
| | Fall Student Orgs. Success Workshops (SOS) | Attended by at least 1 officer and member | 2/date |
| | Spring Professional Networking Mixer | Attended by at least one org. member or officer | 2/date |
| | Spring Presidents Round Table | Attended at least once by the President or officer | 2/date |
| | Spring Curriculum Menu Training | Register for and complete one Curriculum Training through Student Life. Limited Availability | 2 |
| | Spring Student Orgs. Success Workshops (SOS) | Attended by at least 1 officer and member | 2/date |
| Valdosta State University Office of Student Life / Affairs Programs | The Happening (Fall) | Register and participate as an organization | 5 |
| | Homecoming (Fall) | Register and participate as an organization | 2/event |
| | Spring Student Organizations Fair | Register and participate as an organization | 5 |
| | Blazer Pantry | Donation of 100 items or more in year; Sign-up Sheet | 5 |
| | Annual VSU Leadership Conference | At least 2 org. members signup and participate | 5 |
| | VSU Day of Service | At least 2 org. members signup and participate | 4 |
| Student Organization Initiatives | Mandatory Program (Fall & Spring) | Organize/host an event, educational speaker, or forum. (excludes: regularly meetings) | 5 (2.5 x 2) |
| | Mandatory Service (Fall & Spring) | Organize a service project: activity, community outreach, civic exchange, acts of service, trainings | 5 (2.5 x 2) |
| | Diversity/Multiculturalism | Organize an event that clearly emphasizes diversity | 10 (5 x 2) |
| | Collaborative Community Initiative | Team up with another student organization(s) and <u>co-organize</u> a project that fulfills your mission | 10 (5 x 2) |
| | Professional Presentation | Present at a local, regional or national conference | 10 (5 x 2) |
| | Educational Workshop/Event | organize a workshop/event for the university which educates about a cause or mission of your org. | 10 (5 x 2) |
| | Marketing and Public Relations | Organize creative org. marketing campaign for a min. of 2 weeks using Campus Connect, digital TV, social media, sheet signs & at least 2 other methods | 10 (5 x 2) |
| | Organization Support | At least 10 of your members attend another orgs event other than a regular meeting | 5 (2.5 x 2) |
| Campus | Relay for Life | Register & participate as an org. or join another org. | 5 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|--|----|
| Scholarship | GPA | Points based on Organization semester GPA for Spring and Fall semester Below 2.49- 0 points 2.5-2.75- 4 points 2.76-3.0- 6 points 3.01-3.5- 8 points 3.56-4.0- 10 points | 10 |
|--------------------|------------|--|----|

*** Please note that one project cannot be used to fulfill more than one requirement**

TOTAL: 150



2015 Excellence Awards Categories

The **Org. Excellence Awards** recognizes exemplary student leaders and organizations that fulfill their mission while making exceptional contributions to student development and the VSU community. The awards recognize organization effectiveness, ethical leadership, diversity, creativity, teamwork and service.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION AWARDS:

○ **Organizations of Excellence Awards**

Award recognizes the highest achieving organizations as measured in areas of service, ethical leadership, member development, collaboration, project planning, diversity /multiculturalism and public relations. A minimum of 135 quality points must be earned to qualify.

- Organization of **Excellence**: 135+ points
- Organization of **Merit**: 113-134 points
- Organization meets **Standard**: 90-112 points
- Organization in **Development**: 0-89 points

○ **New Student Org. of the Year**

Award recognizes the most outstanding new organization formed within the 12-month awards cycle. This organization displays great potential as a future organization of excellence.

○ **Community Service Project of the Year**

Award recognizes the most outstanding community service project or event as measured by its level of organization, impact on the cause(s) and its ability to involve related constituents.

○ **Valdosta State University Organization of the Year**

The Student Organization of the Year Award recognizes the most outstanding achiever among the organizations recognized as Organizations of Excellence. The winner is selected on the basis of several criteria which includes but is not limited to having among the highest excellence points.

○ **Diversity / Multicultural Project of the Year**

The award recognizes the student organization that organizes a substantive project or event that educates and involves the VSU body in understanding more about a different culture. [Merriam-Webster definition: Multicultural - relating to or including many different cultures]

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

○ **Volunteer of the Year Award**

Although primarily determined by the highest number of service hours, other factors like diversity of service and candidate's attitude towards those she or he serves are important considerations.

○ **Blaze Leadership Award**

This award recognizes the top performer within their student organization. The candidate leads by example and is noted for her or his exemplary work ethic and ethical decision making. He or she provides clear goals and effectively involves officers and members in fulfilling the mission of the organization. He or she consistently shows regard and respect to others including fellow members and officers as well as those in varying levels of leadership. The candidate exemplifies the mission and ideals of the student organization they lead.

○ **President of the Year Award**

The President of the Year surpasses all the requirements and qualities required for the Blaze Leadership award. He or she has held or is holding the position of President.

○ **Campus Advisor of the Year**

The award is given to the campus advisor who has shown remarkable effectiveness as a mentor, team builder, conflict mediator, motivator, reflective agent and policy interpreter.

How to Apply: Applications for Organizational and Individual Awards will be accepted through Campus Connect beginning February 16th through April 17th at noon. There will be a flyer on the main page of Campus Connect with the links directly to the application. Programs or events that are offered by the Student Life Office, or where participation can be validated by a University Department, will be tracked by the Student Life Office. If you would like a point update anytime throughout the year, please contact the Student Life Office.

Who Judges: Review of Organizational and Individual Awards will be conducted by a panel of University Faculty and Staff. The panel will be selected by the Student Life Office to ensure a well-rounded panel is selected.

The Awards:

Organizational: Organizations of Excellence, Community Service Project of the Year, and Multicultural/Diversity Program will receive a Certificate of Recognition, a University Press Release, and acknowledgement in the Spectator and on University Digital Signage. New Student Organization of the Year and Student Organization of the Year will receive all of the previous awards, plus First Tiered reserving in the Student Union for the following school year, priority of Organizational Office Space, and a lunch for 5 organizational members plus an advisor with Dr. McKinney, University President.

Individual: All individual awardees will receive a Certificate of Recognition, a University Press Release, and acknowledgement in the Spectator and on University Digital Signage, and lunch with Dr. McKinney, University President.

The Awards Ceremony: The Student Life Excellence Awards Ceremony will be held on April 23rd at 6pm in the Student Union Theater, with a suggested attire of business casual. All applicants are encouraged to attend as well all students, faculty, staff, and VSU supporters as this is a celebration of everyone's dedication to a successful year!