

NODA
**Association for Orientation, Transition and
Retention in Higher Education**

Scholarship and Award Guidelines



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OVERVIEW OF AWARDS

Norman K. Russell Scholarship

The Norman K. Russell Scholarship is to recognize and assist graduate students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to orientation, retention, and transition, and who will contribute to the enhancement of the orientation field, and who are currently enrolled as a graduate student in orientation-related fields. Up to three \$1,000 scholarships, one of which may be awarded to a doctoral student, will be announced at the Annual Conference. Scholarships are sent through each recipient's financial aid office for distribution of funds.

- NODA may award up to three \$1,000.00 scholarships annually.
- The scholarship selection is to be based on merit only.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a Master's program or in Doctoral level studies at the time the scholarship is awarded.
- One letter of recommendation must be from a previous supervisor and/or a faculty member in the graduate student's academic department.
- No individual can receive more than one scholarship in a given year.
- Recipients of the scholarship cannot be considered again.
- Applications shall include optional demographic information of gender and race.

Outstanding New OTR Professional Award

This award recognizes a new orientation, transition, and retention professional who has demonstrated service to NODA at a regional Association-wide level, and/or to the orientation, transition, and retention profession. This award is granted at both the regional level and the Association-wide level. Each region will select a recipient for the regional award and an Association-wide recipient could be selected from the pool of regional winners each year. The award is based on the following:

- Current NODA membership for one full year.
- No more than 4 years of professional orientation, transition, and retention experience.
- Demonstrated commitment to (and shows promise of becoming a leader in) the field of orientation, transition, and retention.
- Innovative contributions to the individual's institution.
- Active participation at the regional and/or annual NODA conference.

Outstanding OTR Professional Award

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to NODA and the orientation, transition, and retention profession. This award is granted at both the regional level and at the Association wide level. Each region will select a recipient for the regional award and an Association wide recipient could be selected from the pool of regional winners each year. The award is based on the following:

- Outstanding contributions to the orientation, transition, and retention profession (e.g. research, publications, presentations, etc.)
- Development or enhancement of a model orientation, transition, and retention program that meets the varied needs of students.
- Current NODA membership.
- Outstanding regional or Association-wide leadership.
- Eight or more years of experience in higher education (graduate work not considered).

Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award

This award will recognize one graduate student for their contributions to their campus orientation, transition, and retention program, staff success, creativity and outstanding abilities. The award is based on the following:

- Graduate student participated in a graduate internship, assistantship, externship, practicum or other significant experience.
- At the time of the Annual Conference nominees will have had to accomplish one complete semester at an institution (excluding NODA internships).
- Work in a NODA internship does NOT automatically qualify for the Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award.

GSN Annual Conference Fee Waiver Award

This award is to be given to one graduate student annually in an effort to support the development of NODA graduate student members. The award will allow a graduate student member to take advantage of the multitude of educational and professional development opportunities at the NODA Annual Conference. The award is based on the following:

- Currently enrolled in a master's program in higher education, student affairs, or college personnel.
- Demonstrated interest in the field of orientation, transition, and retention.
- Able to verify that you do not have institutional funding for a national conference.
- Able to commit to all other funding related to conference attendance.
- Required to participate in all GSN activities during the national conference, including the Graduate Student Symposium, Resume Review Program, and Case Study Competition.
- Award recipients will be required to obtain a NODA graduate student membership to receive the award (\$40).

Outstanding NODA Intern Award

This award recognizes one intern who has demonstrated commitment to learning and professional development and service through the successful completion of a NODA internship experience.

Award recipient:

- Must have served in an internship sanctioned by NODA within the 12 months prior to the conference in which the award is given, lasting a minimum of eight weeks.
- Must be placed into nomination by the host and/or direct supervisor in the internship.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by two (2) letters of recommendation; one from the direct supervisor and the other from an additional internship campus representative.
- Internship experience must be with a different institution and not the student's current institution.
- Recipients must be either:
 - ~Enrolled in a graduate program or
 - ~Have graduated from a graduate program no more than 12 months prior to the conference in which the award is given.

Outstanding Mentor Award

This award is designed to give special recognition to those professionals who provide outstanding mentorship and guidance to graduate students who aid in orientation and transition programs within our Association and on your campuses. In order to be considered, the nominee must be a current NODA member and have been involved in orientation, transition or retention programs within a year of the September before the Annual Conference.

Innovative Program Award

The Innovative Program Award is presented annually by NODA to a program or unique approach to a challenging situation and/or specific campus concern or need. It is the goal of NODA to recognize leaders and generate new knowledge within the field of orientation, transition and retention. This award seeks to recognize innovative and effective approaches that help university officials meet the changing needs on college and university campuses. It is also an opportunity to highlight good administrative and other practices and share different approaches to meeting student needs with colleagues at other institutions. This award is granted at both the regional level and at the Association wide level. Each region will select a recipient for the regional award and an Association wide recipient could be selected from the pool of regional winners each year.

An innovative program should:

- Encourage diverse and/or multiple subgroups to participate;
- Address a demonstrated need on campus;
- Contain an evaluation/assessment component;

- Are adaptable to other institutions
- Demonstrate financial creativity or cost effectiveness;
- Involve collaboration with other college or university departments; and
- Enhance student learning.

The selection criteria for the Innovative Program Award are as follows:

- Description of the challenging situation and/or specific campus concern/need;
- Explanation of how the program addressed the identified concern/need;
- Evaluation of the program including suggestions as to how the program could be modified to become more effective;
- Description of how the program could be implemented on other campuses.

Nominations should include the following:

- Cover letter from the submitting nominator;
- Information about the individuals responsible for the innovative program; and
- Other supporting documents detailing the creation and implementation of the program.

Only one nomination will be considered from each college, university and/or regional campus.

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA SHOWCASE AWARDS

Only one submission per institution is allowed per category, and each institution can submit up to three categories. Only current NODA members may submit an entry to the Publications and Media Showcase.

Outstanding Brochure or Booklet (Color, Grayscale or Black & White)*:

- The award includes brochures, information pieces, and booklets that outline, depict, or describe the Orientation, Transition, & Retention program or for special populations or welcome week programs. A brochure or booklet would be considered a small publication or pamphlet, mostly containing the highlights of the orientation or welcome week program. Publications must be 50 pages or less to be considered for this category. Publications can be a color, gray or black and white.

Outstanding Handbook (Color, Grayscale or Black & White):

- The award includes a book-type publication that outlines the program, activities, academic and items of interest specifically for new students. (Note: Daily, Weekly or Monthly Academic Planners do not classify as Handbooks). Handbooks must be 50 pages or more to be considered for this category. Handbooks can be a color, gray or black and white.

Outstanding Publication for New Students or Family Members:

- The award will include publications that are given out directly to new Students and/or family members during the year or orientation program. Calendars or handouts or newsletters will be considered as long as they are directly associated with either new students and/or family members.

Outstanding Use of Theme:

- The award consists of all the ways a theme is used within an Orientation program. The consistency and originality in use of theme in orientation, transition and retention for the overall orientation program and publications will be critiqued. Theme should be submitted with a 500 word maximum essay detailing how the theme was used during orientation. Submission can also include photos of publications/programs, t-shirts, website, etc. that was used during their orientation program.

Outstanding Non-Print Media or Emerging Technologies:

- The award will include all videos, slide shows or computer technologies that outline orientation programs, activities, academics or items of interest for new students. Submission includes a copy or link to the non-print media/emerging technologies entry, either with a website link or a YouTube link and a 500 maximum word written submission to clarify how the piece was used in the orientation program.