

DOSA Awards Fall 2026

This is the seventeenth (17) year of presenting the DOSA awards and a wonderful opportunity to recognize students and staff from within the Division for exemplary performance this previous academic year. We received numerous nominations (nominations of 44 individuals to be exact) recognizing various individuals and groups. A committee, with representatives from across the division reviewed each of the nominations and made the difficult decision on the selection of the recipients, so many thanks to them. And a special thanks to Raeleen Ziegler for continuing to chair this selection committee. Thank you Raeleen!

Promotion of Public Affairs Award.

This award is presented to an individual or team for promoting an appreciation, understanding, or celebration of the Public Affairs Mission through delivery of a program and/or through personal actions focused on the three pillars that created a positive impact on our campus.

This year's winner is the Access & Success Programs team ...

The nominator stated, "Through its partnership with the Center for Community Engagement, the Office of Access and Success Programs has provided students with immersive service-learning opportunities through the Bear Breaks Immersion program. In 2026, a cohort of Bears Lead students was sponsored to participate in a Bear Breaks Immersion trip to Nashville, Tennessee, focused on understanding and addressing food insecurity through

community engagement and experiential learning...The Office of Access and Success Programs should be commended for its intentional programming and collaborative spirit.”
Congratulations Access & Success Programs!

Innovation by a Team, New Program, or Initiative.

This award recognizes the combined cooperative efforts of a team or individual to develop and/or deliver an innovative response to student needs.

We had a tie for this award. This year’s first winner for this award goes to the Bears Share Program. The Bears Share nominator stated, “Launching in Fall 2025, Bears Share has brought together the Dean of Students Office, the Center for Community Engagement, the Office of the President, Chartwells, and the School of Health Sciences, to address a common challenge in a new way: connecting students experiencing food insecurity with excess food available from campus events. The program was created and runs without creating any additional costs anywhere in the Division...The program’s impact was evident in its first year. Roughly 1,000 Bear Pantry members received notifications to about 50 food distributions held across campus. In addition to increasing access to food, Bears Share has fostered strong partnerships among departments and created a shared commitment to supporting students.

The second winner of the Innovation by a team award goes to the **Bookstore Ambassador Program**, it’s nominator had the following to say about the program, “The Bookstore Ambassador Program is an innovative, year-long student engagement initiative built to strengthen student connections, enrich the campus experience, and give students meaningful

leadership and professional development opportunities, all while supporting the Bookstore's mission... The Ambassador Program has been “a win” for everyone involved. Students walked away with real experience in marketing, branding, public speaking, networking, and content creation, along with new friendships and a deeper connection to the university. Meanwhile, the Bookstore gained an authentic, highly effective peer-to-peer marketing program that boosted visibility, strengthened campus partnerships, and deepened student engagement.” Great job to everyone involved with the *Bears Share Program and the Bookstore Ambassadors Program!*

Outstanding Individual Championing Connection, Engagement and Awareness

This award recognizes an individual who actively seeks opportunities to expand their understanding of fairness, respect, and the experiences of all communities. The recipient integrates this knowledge into their practice to foster meaningful connections, engage with others effectively, and ensure all individuals are treated with dignity and understanding.

We had another tie for this award. This year’s first award goes to **Armani Eason**. Armani’s nominator wrote, “Armani demonstrates a sustained commitment to creating meaningful relationships, expanding student engagement, and ensuring that students from a range of experiences and backgrounds are treated with dignity, respect, and understanding... One of the strongest examples of Armani’s leadership was her work with the first Bears Lead education abroad experience in Mérida, Mexico, held in May. Armani played a central role in recruiting students and helping make the experience accessible to those who may not have previously viewed international education as an opportunity... Through her work, Armani

raises awareness, removes hurdles, strengthens engagement, and builds connections that contribute directly to student belonging and success. She reflects the values of the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University's public affairs mission." Congratulations Armani.

The second recipient of this award goes to Katie Harrison. **Katie's** nominator had the following things to say, "Katie promotes cohesion and connection amongst coworkers by organizing and/or encouraging group activities and events. They successfully rally others to get involved and foster an environment of respect and inclusion for the graduate students. They utilize tokens, artwork, and presence of self to communicate safety and inclusion. They are an advocate for students' and coworkers' fairness and consistently treat others with dignity and respect... Katie offers a unique perspective and promotes awareness through speaking out and highlighting concerns regarding fairness and access. They truly champion and embody these values of connection, engagement, and awareness. Congrats Katie! **"Well deserved to both Katie and Armani !**

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award.

This award recognizes a graduate assistant who has completed at least one semester of graduate work and demonstrated superior job performance. As always, we have many wonderful graduate assistants.

This year's winner is **Connor Kneeshaw**. Connor's nominator stated, "Connor is an intelligent, dependable, self-sufficient, and hardworking student and employee. He began his position with the Career Center during a period of staff and graduate assistant turnover. Typically, the Student Career Ambassador (SCA) Assistant Manager position is filled by a graduate assistant who has worked in the Career Center for at least a year before being promoted... Connor was expected to step up and lead without much training at all. He did so seamlessly, and his organization and communication skills and the rapport he built with the SCAs were instantly helpful in getting this program going for the semester... Connor Kneeshaw is the type of Graduate Assistant who makes you proud every day and who you are honored to have on your team. He consistently represents the Career Center and Missouri State University with professionalism and integrity.". Congratulations Connor... and thank you to all of our outstanding Graduate Assistants across the division.

The Outstanding New Exempt Staff Member Award

This award is presented to a new exempt staff member employed within the Division of Student Affairs for less than two years who has demonstrated superior job performance and displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University.

Once again, we have two winners for this year's award. The first recipient is **Desmond Dunklin from the Office of Student Engagement**. Desmond's nominator stated, "Since beginning his role as Director of the Office of Student Engagement in Spring 2025, Desmond has quickly established himself as an innovative leader, collaborative partner, and passionate

advocate for student success at Missouri State University... Beyond his responsibilities within the Office of Student Engagement, Desmond has demonstrated a strong commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University through his service on committees (Igniting Opportunity) and his willingness to contribute to initiatives that advance our shared mission and values. He actively seeks ways to connect people, ideas, and resources to improve the student experience. Congratulations Desmond.

Now, our second recipient is **Eliau Mackey from Residence Life**. **Eliau's** nominator said, "Eliau is an active participant when it comes to continuing to learn. He's initiated and sought out opportunities as well as engaged in professional development sessions such as working with neurodivergent coworkers and employees, creating environments that encourage feedback, supervising, using technology to your advantage, emotional intelligence book discussions, a panel of student affairs professionals who started in housing who were sharing their career experiences, etc. Eliau is a strong Hall Director and I'm thankful he is part of our team! I look forward to seeing the continued positive impact Eliau will have as he champions student success!". I certainly agree... congratulations Eliau and great job for both **Desmond and Eliau**. Congrats!

The Outstanding New Non-Exempt Staff Member Award

This award recognizes a new non-exempt staff member employed within the Division of Student Affairs for less than two years who demonstrated superior job performance, displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University.

Taylor Havens from the Office of Student Engagement is our award winner. His nominator said, “Throughout the last two years of staff turnover and re-organization of the office, Taylor has gone above and beyond to support both OSE staff and our Mo State student body. Taylor exemplifies what it means to be an Outstanding New Non-Exempt Staff Member by taking on major event-planning projects, by stepping up to be a strong new student organization advisor, and by overseeing an entire student organization funding process through SOFAC... Without a doubt, Taylor's biggest accomplishment (so far!) in the OSE is his masterful re-framing of the SOFAC application process and funding guidelines. Alongside our Director and GA for SOFAC, he helped to make SOFAC funding more accessible and easier to understand for all student organizations... I can whole-heartedly say that the OSE is better because of Taylor’s hard work and leadership”.

The Outstanding New Part-Time Staff Member Award

This award recognizes a new non-student part-time staff member employed by the Division of Student Affairs for less than two years who has demonstrated superior job performance and displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University.

This year's winner is **Becky Goeringer**, at Magers Health & Wellness.

Her nominator wrote: “Becky exemplifies excellence in service, professionalism, and commitment to Missouri State University, making her highly deserving of this honor. What truly sets Becky apart is her genuine care for others. She regularly checks in with her coworkers to see how they are doing and offers support whenever needed. Becky fosters a positive and encouraging work environment through her kindness, compassion, and willingness to help. Her positive attitude is contagious and contributes significantly to team spirit.”. Congrats Becky!

The Outstanding Exempt Staff Member Award

This award recognizes an exempt staff member employed by the Division of Student Affairs for two or more years who demonstrated superior job performance and displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University.

The winner is **Briar Douglas**, Assistant Director of Student Engagement - Student Involvement. Briar’s nominator wrote, " Briar is a true MO State Bear, holding not one, but two degrees from the university! In his professional role, Briar has navigated continuous change within his office and yet has continued to be an active participant in working to bring the values of DOSA to life. When you think about the fact that ONE person, Briar, is overseeing almost 400 students’ orgs, it really puts into perspective how much and how important work he is doing. Our student organizations are the breath of life of the university! Briar is a positive light in our division, consistently leading us in the fight song at DOSA events and never meeting a stranger! Briar is the friendliest person -- always willing to help a

student or colleague however we can. We are incredibly lucky to have him on our team. ".

Well done, Briar!

The Outstanding Non-Exempt Staff Member Award

This award recognizes a non-exempt staff member employed by the Division of Student Affairs for two or more years who has demonstrated superior job performance and displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University. Our winner is **Tina Musil**, Receptionist in Residence Life, Housing and Dining Services at Kentwood. Tina's nominator wrote, "Tina consistently goes above and beyond in her job as Receptionist of Kentwood... Tina's pride in her work shows in the relationships she builds. She makes a point to greet every person who walks into Kentwood and works to learn every student's name, typically knowing them all by September. Students describe her as “our dorm mom” and say she is kind, caring, and compassionate. In the November 2025 Student Satisfaction Survey... One student called her the best receptionist they have ever met.”

Congrats Tina!

The Outstanding Part-Time Staff Member Award

This award recognizes a non-student, part-time staff member employed by the Division of Student Affairs for two or more years who has demonstrated superior job performance and displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University. This year's winner is **Jennifer Downer**, from the Career Center.

Jennifer's nominator wrote, "Jennifer is passionate about facilitating meaningful connections, whether supporting employers in their recruiting efforts or guiding students through their job

search journeys... What truly sets Jennifer apart is the level of commitment she brings to her role. She consistently exceeds expectations, approaching her position with the accountability and initiative of a full-time staff member. She is reliable, proactive, and serves as an exceptional mentor to our Employer Engagement Graduate Assistants. At the same time, she efficiently manages essential daily operations, including high-volume employer and job approvals within our Handshake system, ensuring accuracy and responsiveness.” Thank you and Congrats Jennifer.

The Outstanding Long-Standing Staff Member Award

This award recognizes an exempt, non-exempt, or part-time non-student staff member employed by the Division of Student Affairs for ten years or more who demonstrated superior job performance and displayed a positive attitude and commitment to the Division of Student Affairs and Missouri State University.

The winner is **Teri Trickey** with Chartwells Dining Services. Her nominator wrote “For more than 20 years, Teri has been a dedicated member of the Missouri State University community and an exceptional leader within the Division of Student Affairs... One of Teri's greatest strengths is her ability to build meaningful relationships. She works closely with clients, faculty, staff, students, and campus partners to bring their visions to life, regardless of how simple or elaborate the event theme may be. Her positive attitude, flexibility, and customer-focused approach have earned the respect and appreciation of colleagues across the University”. I absolutely agree...Congratulations Teri!

Outstanding Friend of Student Affairs

Each year, we have the opportunity to recognize an **Outstanding Friend to Student Affairs**.

This is someone who works in collaboration with our team and walks alongside us in championing student success. While we have lots of great partnerships and partners around campus, This year's recipient is Dr. Nate Quinn. Dr. Quinn is a Senior Instructor in the College of Education and is serving as the SAHE Program Director. This guy is one of the hardest working educators that I have ever seen. He joined the SAHE faculty without really knowing much about our program or the field of Student Affairs... yet that did not stop him. He asked questions and put in the time to learn the answers. I personally have enjoyed working with him and greatly appreciate all he has done to build Cohort 19... our new graduate student cohort in SAHE. Thank you, Dr. Quinn!

Applications for the 2027 DOSA Awards will open in mid-June 2027.