

LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION MONTH 2021

Welcome from WOU President, Dr. Rex Fuller ([video](#))

Major Campus Awards

Delmer Dewey/Julia McCulloch Smith Award: Noah E “NJ” Johnson ([award presentation video](#))

“Our award winner commented that through their activities on campus they have developed the critical ability to collaboratively problem solve even when individuals and groups initially seem to have different goals and values. They have learned the responsibility of leaders to speak out and work against injustice.”

Delmer Dewey/Julia McCulloch Smith Award: Josh Salsbury ([award presentation video](#))

“A math major would never be able to land a job at a non-profit. To this they said, ‘My time at WOU has taught me I can apply my skills however I want and I can help make people’s lives better by doing so.’”

Distinguished Student Leader: Carlos Fonseca Jr. ([award presentation video](#))

“Carlos is thoughtful, compassionate, and courageous throughout his work as a student leader. I have truly never met someone who has faced so much adversity and has equal strength and empathy.”

Distinguished Student Leader: Antonia Scholerman ([award presentation video](#))

“Antonia is a one of a kind leader in the best way. Her energy brings a calm joy to those around her. She gets an amazing amount of work done quietly without seeking a lot of praise.”

Outstanding Student Citizen: Maria del Refugio Becerra ([award presentation video](#) – [Eng.](#), [Spa.](#))

“I am so proud of this student and excited to see the impact they make in the lives of everyone they meet. They will go far, yet remain family.”

Klush Tum Tum: Elizabeth “ZZ” Braatz ([award presentation video](#))

“She is dedicated to living her values of equality, kindness, love, and support. Leaders make our campus safer, more welcoming, more true to the values we aspire to be.”

Other Campus Awards

(alphabetical by award name)

Abby’s House Advocate Leadership Award: Maya Schlosser-Hall ([award presentation video](#))

“She embodies what it is to be a peer advocate for Abby’s House. From day one she has been deeply in tune with the needs of students, even ones with identities different from her own.”

Abby’s House Senior Advocate Award: Jessica Martinez-Medina ([award presentation video](#))

“She is incredibly influential and has been a huge asset to the team since the beginning of the year. She is someone I look up to.”

Abby's House Social Justice Award: Lily Gallagher ([award presentation video](#))

"Their knowledge about how the WOU system works and their willingness to reach out to the broader community is incredibly inspiring."

Ackerman Landers Resident Assistant of the Year: Nathan Nañez ([award presentation video](#))

"This person has undoubtedly gone above and beyond what it means to be an RA. Their perseverance and selflessness for everyone around them is inspiring."

Ambassador of the Year: Sandra Garcia-Torres ([award presentation video](#))

"I am so excited to continue to work with you and watch the positive impact I know you will have while also growing not only as a leader but as a person."

Arbor Park & Barnum Resident Assistant of the Year: Carlos Fonseca ([award presentation video](#))

"This person has been a great help with the transition to online and has had great relationships with their residents and staff."

ASWOU Citizen Senator Award: Dioselin Alvarez ([award presentation video](#))

"She has been a strong advocate for equity within our student government and processes and has extended her advocacy in other clubs and organizations."

ASWOU Club of the Year: Art & Design Club ([award presentation video](#))

"This club really stepped up and has been in communication with me all year. Even though things have been slow moving and everything is tough with COVID, they have been a great club to work with."

ASWOU Executive Cabinet Member of the Year: Arlette Tapia Lopez ([award presentation video](#))

"Arlette frequently excels when leading and working with teams, communicating within the executive cabinet, and always completes her tasks efficiently and promptly."

ASWOU Senator of the Year: Elizabeth Braatz ([award presentation video](#))

"Even before becoming senator, Elizabeth was working hard to ensure that student voices were heard and student needs were being met."

ASWOU Student Organizations Leader of the Year: Martina Shannon ([award presentation video](#))

"This last year has been turbulent, and rocky, and a difficult year for many but Martina started a club during that time and has great communication."

Black Student Union Executive Member of the Year: Tati Whitlow ([award presentation video](#))

"This student has been involved in BSU over the past three years. I am so proud to have seen their growth and development into a strong leader who is passionate about racial justice."

Don Boderman Volunteer of the Year: Juliana Cameron ([award presentation video](#))

"Juliana has spent the past 3 years working industriously for the IFC committee and has spent countless hours of her time over the entire academic year."

FSC Excellence in Academics: Kappa Delta Chi ([award presentation video](#))

“This award is going to an organization that is proving you can be small, yet mighty. Members have come together to support one another in succeeding in their academic endeavors.”

Heritage Hall Resident Assistant of the Year: Chase Johnson ([award presentation video](#))

“We would not be where we are without them and are grateful for their diligence, empathy, and support in this role.”

IFC Committee Members: Kayley Arpaia, Juliana Cameron, Nick Denning, Carlos Fonseca Jr., Logan Jackson, Blanca Jimenez, Quentin Kanta & Elvis Solis Santos ([award presentation video](#))

“You might think it would be easy and even fun to doll out nearly 4.5 million dollars, but it’s not. These individuals have spent countless hours in meetings, reviewing budgets, and scrutinizing figures in order to limit the increase of the fee.”

Leadership Certificate: Natalie Dean, Carlos Fonseca Jr., Lauren Gerig, Alicia Ojeda & McKenzie Wolfe-Webb ([award presentation video](#))

“These students truly exemplify what it means to be a student leader at Western Oregon University. They will graduate from Western with our full support and recognition of having mastered the core competencies of leadership.”

MCR Mentor of the Year: Arlette Tapia Lopez & Jessica Martinez-Medina ([award presentation video](#))

“A strong mentor goes beyond what is expected and takes initiative to provide support to meet their mentee’s needs”

MECHA Executive Member of the Year: Blanca Jimenez ([award presentation video](#))

“Blanca Jimenez is a great leader and she has taken a lot of initiative for the club. We appreciate everything you do Blanca, so thank you.”

MECHA Freshman of the Year: José Alaniz-Benitez ([award presentation video](#))

“This year’s MECHA awards were chosen by MECHA members to recognize outstanding commitment to the university, MECHA, and the Latinx community.”

MECHA Member of the Year: Fatima Urenda-Hernandez ([award presentation video](#))

“Her phenomenal activity within MECHA has made it an even more inclusive club and has made sure everyone feels respected.”

MSU Member of the Year: Sangato Letisi ([award presentation video](#))

“Sangato’s personality truly shines strong, even through the screen. He has always stepped up to speak when others are unwilling and his humor and smile always bring light to the meetings.”

Multicultural Leadership Award: Blanca Jimenez & Elyse Rodriguez ([award presentation video](#))

“Blanca Jimenez and Elyse Rodriguez are two of the most capable individuals I have ever met and MSU, along with myself and our advisor Anna Hernandez-Hunter are lucky to have them.”

Outstanding Activity Committee Member of the Year: Anne Dungalen ([award presentation video](#))

“They have taken the lead on many events and they have raised a lot of money for the food pantry. We need more people like them.”

Outstanding ARA of the Year: AJ Owens ([award presentation video](#))

“He pulls through and provides consistent support. AJ is a constant morale supporter of HPAC and a wonderful advisor”

Outstanding IFC Member: Makana Waikiki ([award presentation video](#))

“You might think it would be easy and even fun to doll out nearly 4.5 million dollars, but it’s not. These individuals have spent countless hours in meetings, reviewing budgets, and scrutinizing figures in order to limit the increase of the fee.”

Outstanding NRHH Member of the Year: Cheyanne Bumgardner ([award presentation video](#))

“She stands out from the group as someone who is hardworking, pays attention to detail, and cares about the success of the organization.”

Outstanding RHA Executive Board Member of the Year: Channing Bushman ([award presentation video](#))

“They have gone above and beyond to make this year amazing for everyone. They are always thinking of others.”

Outstanding Senior Resident Assistant of the Year: Payton Wagner ([award presentation video](#))

“While looking through the nominations words like role model, steps up, inspiration, supportive, wise, calm, outstanding, incredible to work with were constantly being said.”

Outstanding Student Engagement Student Employee of the Year: Kayley Arpaia ([award presentation video](#))

“They are compassionate, caring, and thoughtful and put those same qualities into the work that they produce.”

PLUS Team Member of the Year 2020: Kaylie Leonard ([award presentation video](#))

“We have all been inspired by her work ethic and attention, but I am most inspired by the way our recipient looks out for others to make them feel seen and valued.”

Psychology Peer Advising Leadership Award: Emily Beck ([award presentation video](#))

“Her leadership is particularly remarkable because of the circumstances of which it occurred, an entire year of working remotely.”

Psychology Peer Advising Leadership Award: Cole Hendren ([award presentation video](#))

“Cole is proof that someone is a leader not because of their title but because of their actions and how they inspire others.”

SEP Student of the Year: Michael John Naputi

“Michael John truly exemplifies the spirit of this award and excels in setting a positive example for all to emulate.”

Spirit of Student Media Award: Sydney Carpenter ([award presentation video](#))

“Sydney has earned this through her hard work and dedication in bringing important news stories to the students of WOU.”

Student Activities Board Member of the Year: Anne Francesca Dungalen ([award presentation video](#))

“I appreciate you so so much for all of your willingness to be flexible, to sign up for things, and for your never-ending creativity and good ideas.”

Student Veteran of the Year: Adam Dryden

“Adam truly exemplifies the spirit of this award and excels in setting a positive example for all to emulate.”

Unidos Executive Board Member of the Year: Blanca Jimenez & Cruz Lopez ([award presentation video](#))

“Their excellence has aided UNIDOS in their development as a club as well as empowering and shaping the lives of WOU students.”

Upward Bound Recognition Award: Sydney Urueta-Lothman ([award presentation video](#))

“Sydney is a student who is passionate about helping others and seeing students’ full potential. She embraces challenges and has grown so much.”

Wayne F. Morse Ethics in Leadership Award: Chris Smith ([award presentation video](#))

“Chris has consistently gone above and beyond in his role as ASWOU director of state and federal affairs. Throughout the past year Chris has advocated and lobbied extensively.”

Writing Center Tutor of the Year: Maria Becerra ([award presentation video](#))

“Maria, you are one of a kind. You are selfless, you embody a boundless enthusiasm, and you possess the combination of humor and humility.”