



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
Student Affairs

2025-2026 STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF AWARDS

Below are the awards and criteria for the 2025-2026 Student Affairs Staff Awards. Please review the descriptions and nomination criteria for each award and nominate a UGA Student Affairs staff member, group, or department. Award nominations must address at least one (but do not have to contain all) of the criteria listed in order to be considered.

We hope that you will consider nominating a colleague for each of these awards!

Note: There is no limit to the number of nominations that may be submitted by an individual; however, a separate submission must be completed for each award or nomination. Nominations are welcome from any UGA student, faculty, or staff member.

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD: INDIVIDUAL

Do you know someone who works behind the scenes to ensure their department is successful? Do you want to help them get the recognition they deserve?

This award recognizes a UGA Student Affairs staff member serving in a support role (administrative support, building/facility services, security, etc.) who positively contributes to their department's success and enhances the work environment.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Performing job responsibilities in an exemplary manner
- Promoting a positive environment in their office/department
- Providing outstanding customer service
- Striving for efficiency without compromising quality of work
- Demonstrating attention to detail in all facets of performance
- Actively supporting endeavors of the division or campus community
- Nominee serves in a support staff role in UGA Student Affairs at time of nomination

GRADUATE ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD: INDIVIDUAL

Is there a graduate assistant in your department that was crucial to achieving your goals this year? Have a classmate that you feel should be recognized for their work in their assistantship?

This award recognizes a UGA Student Affairs graduate assistant who has consistently exceeded the responsibilities of their position in a manner that promotes the success, mission, and goals of the Division.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Performing job responsibilities in an exemplary manner
- Seeking additional opportunities to engage within the Division outside of regular position responsibilities through volunteering for and/or participating in initiatives hosted by various departments or the Division
- Positively impacting, engaging, and/or supporting the Division and UGA community

- Contributing to their field through conference presentations, digital/print publications, or a volunteer role
- Nominee serves as a graduate assistant in UGA Student Affairs at time of nomination

NEW PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD: INDIVIDUAL

Have a new professional in your department that exceeds expectations? Do you know a newer professional and feel like they have gone above and beyond?

This award recognizes a UGA Student Affairs staff member with 1 to 3 years total professional experience within their field (not only at UGA) who has consistently exceeded the responsibilities of their position in a way that enhances the success, mission, and goals of the Division.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Performing job responsibilities in an exemplary manner
- Seeking additional opportunities to engage within the Division outside of regular position responsibilities through volunteering for and/or participating in initiatives hosted by various departments or the Division
- Positively impacting, engaging, and/or supporting the Division and UGA community
- Contributing to their field through conference presentations, digital/print publications, or a volunteer role(s)
- Nominee serves as a staff member in UGA Student Affairs with 1 year to 3 years of total professional experience (not only at UGA) at time of nomination

EMERGING LEADER AWARD: INDIVIDUAL

Do you have a staff member with enormous potential? Know someone that isn't "new" but feel that they continually exceed expectations?

This award recognizes a UGA Student Affairs staff member who has at least 3 years of professional experience, not all of which have to be in UGA Student Affairs. This staff member, regardless of position or title, exceeds the responsibilities of their position in a manner that demonstrates a commitment to student success.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Performing job responsibilities in an exemplary manner
- Inspiring others by demonstrating a commitment to the values, mission, and vision of UGA Student Affairs
- Prioritizing a steadfast commitment to student success through their work
- Positively impacting, engaging, and/or supporting the Division and UGA community
- Contributing to their field through conference presentations, digital/print publications, or a volunteer role(s)
- Nominee serves as a staff member in UGA Student Affairs with a minimum of 3 years of total professional experience (not only at UGA) at time of nomination

VICTOR K. WILSON COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD: INDIVIDUAL

Do you know someone that has been here for 10 or more years and want to recognize that person for their hard work and commitment? Does a name come immediately to mind when you think of someone who is dedicated to the success of UGA Student Affairs?

This award recognizes a UGA Student Affairs staff member who has contributed at least 10 years of service to UGA Student Affairs. This staff member, regardless of position or title, has demonstrated exceptional leadership and exemplary service to UGA students, staff, and the community.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Displaying a steadfast commitment to performance beyond regular position responsibilities
- Modeling an example of excellence for students and staff
- Providing a level of service that exceeds their position responsibilities and expectations to prioritize the student experience
- Positively impacting, engaging, and/or supporting the Division and UGA community
- Nominee serves as a staff member in UGA Student Affairs with a minimum of 10 years of service to the Division at time of nomination

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: INDIVIDUAL

Is your supervisor amazing? Do you work with a supervisor that is committed to the excellence of their employees?

This award is designed to recognize a UGA Student Affairs staff member who excels at supervising their staff and department. Individuals nominated for this award must currently supervise staff, which may include undergraduate students, graduate students, part-time employees, and/or full-time employees.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Investing in continued growth and development of staff
- Promoting the success of the team, department, and UGA Student Affairs, while supporting the needs of individual staff
- Establishing a positive and motivating work environment
- Positively impacting, engaging, and/or supporting the Division and UGA community
- Nominee serves as a supervisor in UGA Student Affairs at time of nomination

REMOVING BARRIERS AWARD: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP

Do you know of a program that went above and beyond to remove barriers within the UGA community? Is there an ongoing initiative that represents our division's desire to promote access for all students?

This award recognizes an individual or group of individuals within UGA Student Affairs who implemented a program, system, or event that helped to reduce barriers for students.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Creating an opportunity for students and/or staff to foster respect across difference
- Providing educational information, tools, or resources that help students engage fully in the UGA experience.
- Removing physical, financial, social or procedural barriers that limit participation
- Promoting active community outreach
- Working to raise campus awareness of resources and services
- Individual nominees must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at time of nomination – at least one person in a group nomination must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at the time of nomination.

COLLABORATION AWARD: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP

Do you have a coworker who strives to work collaboratively? Did you collaborate with another department/area to enhance a program or service to ensure it was more accessible for others?

This award recognizes an individual or a group of individuals within UGA Student Affairs who have demonstrated a commitment to collaboration in consideration of affordability, ability, innovation, and access.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Advancing awareness, knowledge, and skills within the UGA community
- Developing innovative methods for increasing and valuing collaboration through wide-ranging activities or systems
- Creating opportunities for students and/or staff to foster respect across difference
- Promoting the advancement of collaboration in daily work, institutional policies, and practices
- Advocating for the interests of all students
- Establishing or participating in staff development opportunities intended to increase understanding and awareness
- Individual nominees must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at time of nomination – at least one person in a group nomination must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at time of nomination

INNOVATION AWARD: INDIVIDUAL/GROUP

Do you have a coworker who embodies innovation and creativity in their work? Do you know someone that is actively developing new solutions to help students succeed?

This award recognizes an individual or group of individuals that utilized a creative approach to advance the work of UGA Student Affairs. Nominees for this award have shown initiative to innovate and create solutions that address a gap or need within their department or the Division.

Nominations will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

- Establishing and/or strengthening relationships with campus partners external to UGA Student Affairs to foster a supportive student development environment
- Identifying a creative and sustainable solution to an identified gap or need in their department or the Division to advance the mission of UGA Student Affairs
- Demonstrating initiative in the creation of a new process or solution to enrich student development or enhance departmental effectiveness
- Individual nominee must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at time of nomination – at least one person in a group nomination must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at time of nomination

VICE PRESIDENT'S DWIGHT DOUGLAS AWARD

This award recognizes an individual who has a demonstrated commitment to the mission and values of UGA Student Affairs. Recipients may or may not have direct contact with students but their efforts significantly contribute to the success of the Division. Staff members selected for this award are chosen directly by Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Michelle G. Cook.

Know someone that you think would be a great candidate for this award? Submit their name for Vice President Cook's consideration. Nominees must serve as a current UGA Student Affairs staff member at the time of nomination.

The Vice President's Dwight Douglas Award for is named in honor of the University of Georgia's first Vice President for Student Affairs. During a quarter-century as Vice President, Dr. Douglas helped create a highly trained, professional division that places student success at the center of its mission.

Staff selected for this award will meet one or more of the following areas:

- Significantly contributing to the success of UGA Student Affairs
- Inspiring students and/or staff to engage meaningfully with the UGA community
- Contributing to the intellectual growth of others
- Promoting the development of character in others
- Demonstrating commitment to university and/or Division programs and initiatives
- Advancing the mission and goals of UGA Student Affairs
- Investing in continued growth and development of students, staff, and the Division