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NKU seeks award nominations

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Northern Kentucky University has started accepting nominations from faculty and staff for graduating senior awards.

"At NKU, we believe it is important to recognize our students for their accomplishments and for their contributions to our community," said Zebulun Davenport, NKU's vice president of student affairs. "We also believe we have a very unique population of hard-working students both in and out of the classroom. In addition to their academic excellence, many of our students work full- or part-time jobs as they attend Northern.

"These awards are just one way we show our student how we appreciate their efforts."

The Regents Award is given to a senior who plans to go to graduate school and is based on professionalism and leadership. The NKU Foundation Student Leadership Award is based on leadership in student government or other leadership roles. The Excelsior Award is given to a senior who has overcome obstacles in pursuit of academic success. The Paul J. Sipes Award is given to a senior "who displays the personal qualities of honesty, character, and industry and who has actively participated in community affairs."

The President's Award goes to the individuals who helped create a sense of community at NKU. The University Service Award recognizes a person who has provided outstanding service to the campus. Finally, the Faculty Senate Award is given to a senior who shows exceptional skills and productivity in an independent study project.

"Whenever a student receives an award it serves as recognition of their hard work as well as provides a concrete example of a student's accomplishments; it can also be used to highlight a student's achievements when applying for a job," said Davenport.

A ceremony will be held May 5 at the monthly Regents board meeting for the award-winning students, their family and the nominating faculty and staff.

"While the recognition is the primary benefit, there is a small monetary sum that comes with each award," said Davenport. "All of the recipients receive \$300 except for two awards, which come with a \$500 prize."

Davenport said that while the award benefits the students, NKU is also recognized.

"These awards are another way that NKU shares in and celebrates the achievements of its students," he said. "It gives the university an opportunity to highlight some of our brightest stars and it lets us show them that we care about them and the work they're doing."

The deadline to nominate is Friday.
