UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

2027 CFSD Arête Awards

Recognizing fraternity and sorority excellence for the 2026 calendar year.
Nomination Applications will open on November 2, 2026.
Deadline to submit a nomination is December 30th, 2026.
http://greeklife.uconn.edu/award-nominations/

Chapter Award Descriptions

All nominations must be submitted via the Award Nomination form. EOE status does not determine eligibility to be nominated for an award, although your EOE status may be considered.

When writing your nominations, include tangibles or examples of how your chapter has exemplified that award. The same goes for the individual nominations. Thinking about the specific examples that could help with better understanding why you are making that nomination. Some reviewers are not affiliated with the University of Connecticut and need concrete examples to adequately score nominations.

Chapter of the Year

This award is designed to recognize the chapters that have demonstrated excellence in all endeavors and represent the highest qualities of fraternity and sorority life as related to the shared pillars of citizenship, leadership, and scholarship. This chapter has gone above and beyond to exemplify the values that we encourage as a community and does so with sincere compassion for the greater good. For this award there will be one winner from each council.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and consider coaching, academics and chapter's overall progress in choosing the 4 winners of the Chapter of the Year award.

Excellence in Academic Achievement

We support the academic vision and mission of the University and fully engage in the relationship between academic and co-curricular activities. It is the chapter's goal to encourage scholastic standards and policies to support their members in their academic success so that they can lead successful lives in which they contribute to both their fields of interest and broader society in a positive way. This award is designed to recognize chapters with a high GPA and chapters that have held programming specifically for academics within their general members and/or new members.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university, please make sure all nominations are fully encompassing of the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Grade Report will be pulled and considered
- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor about the chapter Academic efforts.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Excellence in Member Development

We are committed to the growth and development of fraternity and sorority members by ensuring that the programming efforts reflect individual needs throughout their entire membership in the chapter and aim to foster new members that will have a positive impact on the community. Your new member education program should not only prepare individuals for active membership in the chapter, but also in the fraternity/sorority community and beyond. This award is designed to recognize a chapter who has focused on programming or efforts to further the development of their members by educating them on an array of subjects that also have importance outside of the fraternity & sorority community.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university, please make sure all nominations are fully encompassing of the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about the Chapter's Membership Development
- Complete reflection questions in the application
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Excellence in Recruitment & Retention

Community members should recruit with the intention of building a sustainable chapter of members who share similar principles and reflect the values of their fraternity/sorority. To ensure the future success of their organization, the organization ensures that members are prepared to take on the responsibilities that come with upholding their membership and values. Chapters are conscious of their size and their intake frequency to meet the requirements set by inter/national organization, local governing council, and the University. This award is designed to recognize chapters that have put intentional and conscious effort into their recruitment while focusing on the overall growth of their organization, regardless of new member count.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about the Chapter's Recruitment and Retention efforts.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Please add all data and analytics that you have, to support your nomination.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Excellence in Chapter Operations

Chapters effectively and productively run all chapter meetings, programs, and events. They maintain productive relationships with their on-campus advisor, CFSD coach, and alumni advisor that help chapter operations run smoothly. They have policies and/or practices in place to ensure a thorough transition of officers and maintain an updated constitution and/or bylaws. Chapter creates a budget and calendar that align with their organization's values. They improve chapter operations to provide a positive experience for their members. This award recognizes a chapter that has implemented specific practices that allow them to better operate as an organization whether that be for meetings, programs, or events.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about the success of the Chapter's Operations
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Excellence in Community Impact

Chapters support and provide opportunities for their members to be global citizens and exemplify a commitment to create meaningful impact in the Storrs and greater Connecticut community through intentional and innovative philanthropic and service initiatives. Not only does the organization encourage members' involvement in university-sponsored outreach programs, but the organization also strives to support the organization's national philanthropies. From the UConn Academic Vision: "Through outreach and partnerships, we promote sustainable development and a happy, healthy, and inclusive society. This engagement is local and global, based on intercultural understanding and recognition of the transnational nature of the challenges and opportunities we face." This award recognizes a chapter that embodies the quote above through innovative and unique philanthropic and service initiatives.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university, please make sure all nominations are fully encompassing of the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about the Chapter's Community Impact
- Complete reflection questions in the application
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.
- Attach photos to prove service and programs.

Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

This award recognizes a chapter that demonstrates an ongoing and holistic commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging across all areas of chapter operations. The chapter intentionally fosters an environment where members feel empowered to express and celebrate their identities, whether related to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic background, ability, or other dimensions of diversity—while also encouraging learning about and respecting the experiences of others. Through their actions, programs, and culture, members uphold a standard of civility, inclusion, and respect, and actively work to create a community that is equitable and culturally aware. This chapter not only prioritizes education and dialogue around issues that affect marginalized communities but also takes action to challenge injustice and create more inclusive systems both within and beyond their organization.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university, please make sure all nominations are fully encompassing of the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about the Chapter's Membership Development
- Complete reflection questions in the application
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.
- Attach photos to prove programs and initiatives.

Excellence in Public Relations and Marketing

This award recognizes a chapter that excels in using public relations, branding, and marketing to promote both their organization and the broader fraternity and sorority community in a positive and values-based way. The chapter demonstrates intentional efforts to shape public perception by showcasing the impact, leadership, service, and inclusivity of its members through strategic communication.

The chapter actively works to enhance its image through a variety of platforms, including social media, campus publications, websites, in-person outreach, and community partnerships. Through these efforts, they help tell the story of modern fraternity and sorority life—one rooted in purpose, connection, and meaningful contribution.

This chapter also understands the importance of relationship-building and serves as a strong ambassador between the fraternity/sorority community, the campus community, and local town residents. They engage in transparent, respectful communication and take a proactive approach to managing their reputation, addressing concerns, and amplifying the positive contributions of their members and peers.

Nominees should highlight specific campaigns, initiatives, or communication strategies used over the past year, along with any outcomes or improvements in visibility, engagement, or public perception that resulted from their efforts.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university, please make sure all nominations are fully encompassing of the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about marketing efforts.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Please add all data and analytics that you have, to support your nomination.
- Provide photos and screenshots of marketing campaigns.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Excellence in Risk Mitigation

This award recognizes a chapter that demonstrates an exceptional and proactive commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of its members and community. The recipient of this award goes beyond simply following policies—they foster a culture of responsible decision-making, shared accountability, and prevention-focused education that empowers members to prioritize safety in all aspects of chapter life.

The winning chapter will have implemented clear, consistent strategies to mitigate risk in areas such as alcohol and drug use, event planning and management, hazing prevention, mental health support, and facility safety.

This includes proactive planning, comprehensive member education, and swift action to address concerns or violations. The chapter regularly evaluates its practices, seeks feedback, and works collaboratively with advisors, inter/national organizations, and university staff to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all.
This chapter doesn't just manage risk reactively—it builds a culture of care, respect, and accountability that allows members to thrive. Evidence of creative programming, peer-to-peer interventions, and the development of systems or tools (e.g., sober monitor plans, harm-reduction workshops, crisis response protocols) is encouraged**. Organizational Conduct and Investigations through the Office of Community Standards will be considered.**

Nominees should describe specific steps taken over the past year to promote a safer chapter experience, how those efforts were received by members, and the measurable or observable outcomes resulting from those actions.
This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university, please make sure all nominations are fully encompassing of the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor talking about marketing efforts.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Attach proof of a risk meeting/trainings outside of CFSD that helped in your risk mitigation efforts. (UConn PD, Community Standards, Off Campus Activities Advising, National/International Headquarters trainings/meetings etc.)
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.
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<u>Most Improved Chapter</u>
This award recognizes a chapter that has demonstrated significant growth and progress over the past academic year. Improvement may be reflected in a variety of areas, including but not limited to chapter operations, academic achievement, community engagement, risk management, member retention, financial stability, leadership development, values alignment, and contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
This chapter has shown a clear commitment to reflection, accountability, and continuous improvement. Through intentional goal setting, meaningful internal changes, and increased engagement with their inter/national organization, university resources, and/or campus community, the chapter has worked to overcome challenges and build a stronger, more sustainable presence.

Nominees should demonstrate measurable outcomes, describe the strategies used to promote improvement, and share how these changes have positively impacted the chapter experience for current and future members. **The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and consider nominees for this award based on chapter coach advising.**

NEW CHAPTER AWARDS 2027:

Educational Program of the Year

This award recognizes a chapter that has developed and implemented an educational program that demonstrates its commitment to the continued learning and development of its members and/or the broader UConn community. The program addresses an identified need, connects to the organization's values, and provides participants with knowledge, skills, or perspectives that extend beyond their fraternity and sorority experience. Through intentional planning and engaging educational strategies, the chapter creates opportunities for participants to reflect, engage in meaningful dialogue, and apply what they have learned.

Eligible programs must be additional educational opportunities initiated and provided by the chapter beyond educational events offered by the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development (CFSD). Attendance at or participation in CFSD-provided educational events does not qualify for this award. The nominated program should demonstrate how the chapter takes ownership of identifying educational needs and creating opportunities for continued development.

Nominees should describe the purpose of the program, the audience it served, and the strategies used to support participant learning. Nominations should include specific examples of how the program influenced participants' understanding, attitudes, or actions.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university. Please make sure all nominations fully encompass the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor describing the program's educational purpose, impact, and contribution to continued development.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Describe the chapter's role in identifying the educational need and planning and implementing the program.
- Provide program materials, participation information, and participant feedback or other evidence of learning.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Collaboration of the Year

This award recognizes a chapter that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to working collaboratively with other chapters, governing councils, student organizations, campus departments, and/or community partners. Through shared planning, decision-making, and responsibility, the chapter contributes to an initiative that advances a common goal and strengthens relationships within or beyond the fraternity and sorority community.

The collaboration should demonstrate meaningful involvement from each partner and show how their combined efforts enhanced the initiative's reach, quality, or impact. Nominees should describe each partner's contributions, how responsibilities were shared, and how the collaboration created opportunities for continued engagement.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university. Please make sure all nominations fully encompass the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor describing the collaboration and its outcomes.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Include a statement from at least one collaborating partner describing their involvement and the value of the partnership.
- Provide program materials, participation information, and evidence of shared planning and implementation.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Service Impact Award

This award recognizes the chapter that has completed the highest average number of community service hours per member during the award consideration period. Through their collective commitment to service, members contribute their time and effort to addressing community needs and exemplify their organization's values through action.

The Staff in the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development will select the recipient based on community service hours submitted through UConntact. Total eligible service hours will be averaged per chapter member, and all submissions will be reviewed for accuracy before the award is presented.

No separate award nomination is required. Chapters should review the CFSD community service guidelines before logging their hours to ensure that all submissions meet the requirements for eligible service.

Philanthropy Service Award

This award recognizes a chapter that demonstrates a meaningful connection between its philanthropic efforts, its organizational values, and its inter/national organization's philanthropy of choice. Through intentional fundraising, education, and engagement, the chapter helps members understand the purpose behind their philanthropic commitment and how their local efforts advance the mission and espoused values of their inter/national organization.

The chapter connects this commitment to the Storrs and greater Connecticut community by supporting local organizations, partnerships, or initiatives aligned with its inter/national philanthropic cause. These efforts deepen members' connection to their organization while demonstrating how its values can guide meaningful contributions to the surrounding community.

Nominees should describe how their philanthropic efforts reflect chapter and inter/national values, connect to their inter/national organization's philanthropy of choice, and benefit the local community. Consideration will be given to member understanding and engagement, the strength of these connections, and demonstrated impact, alongside the amount raised or collected. Husky-THON-related fundraising and activities are not eligible for consideration for this award.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university. Please make sure all nominations fully encompass the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor describing the chapter's philanthropic efforts and their connection to organizational values.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- National Organization Philanthropy must be updated on the chapter's UConn CFSD Website.
- Describe how members were educated about the cause and how their involvement strengthened their connection to the organization's mission and values.
- Identify the local beneficiary or community partnership and provide documentation of funds or donations contributed.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Alumni Relations Award

This award recognizes a chapter that has demonstrated an intentional and sustained commitment to building meaningful relationships with its alumni. The chapter creates opportunities for alumni to remain connected to the organization and contribute to the development of current members through mentorship, educational programming, professional connections, service, and shared organizational experiences.

The chapter maintains consistent communication, welcomes alumni involvement, and develops relationships that benefit both undergraduate and alumni members. Nominees should describe the strategies used to engage alumni, the opportunities provided for meaningful participation, and how these relationships have strengthened the chapter experience and supported their long-term success.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university. Please make sure all nominations fully encompass the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor describing the chapter's alumni relations efforts.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Provide examples of alumni communications, programs, mentorship opportunities, or other engagement initiatives.
- Include alumni participation information and feedback from an alumni participant or partner.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

GASA Workshop Completion Recognition

The Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development will recognize chapters that have completed the GASA workshop through acknowledgment in the Arête Awards presentation. This recognition highlights chapters' participation in an educational opportunity that supports a safer and more informed fraternity and sorority community.

Workshop completion will be verified before chapters are included in the recognition slides. This acknowledgment is separate from selection for the Excellence in Health and Wellness award.

Innovative Program of the Year

This award recognizes a chapter that has developed a new program or substantially reimagined an existing program to strengthen its connection to its inter/national organization while showcasing the positive contributions of fraternity and sorority life. The program translates the organization's mission, values, or traditions into an engaging experience that serves the broader fraternity and sorority community and/or the greater UConn community.

The program must be outward-facing, extending beyond the chapter's own membership and creating opportunities for others to experience the purpose, connection, and value that fraternity and sorority organizations bring to campus. Through creative planning and meaningful engagement, the chapter demonstrates how its local membership reflects the ideals of its inter/national organization and contributes positively to campus life. Educational programs, philanthropy events, and community service activities are not eligible for this award.

Nominees should explain what made the program innovative, how it strengthened the chapter's connection to its inter/national organization, and how it engaged the broader community. Nominations should demonstrate how the program increased visibility, built relationships, or strengthened understanding of the positive role of fraternity and sorority life at UConn.

This award will be reviewed by supporters of the University of Connecticut community from outside the university. Please make sure all nominations fully encompass the information that will help reviewers make their decisions.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter and Advisor describing the program's innovation, purpose, and impact.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Explain how the program reflects the inter/national organization's mission, values, or traditions and strengthens members' connection to the organization.
- Provide program materials and describe how the event engaged the fraternity and sorority community and/or the greater UConn community beyond the chapter's membership.
- Include participation information, participant feedback, and evidence of increased visibility, relationship-building, or community impact.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Individual Award Descriptions

Outstanding Advisor

To acknowledge the outstanding work of advisors, the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development wishes to recognize those individuals who have been exemplary Advisors over the past calendar year. The *Outstanding Advisor* will be chosen based on their involvement and influence in the organization and the fraternity and sorority community. This advisor is crucial to the success of the chapter and acts as a concrete support system that members could not only rely on, but also learn from.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Outstanding Chapter President

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions, dedication and hard work of fraternity and sorority chapter presidents who served the community during the last calendar year. This individual should have demonstrated exceptional leadership, character, ability to overcome adversity, and the highest values of their fraternity/sorority. They upheld all their responsibilities as chapter president and went above and beyond to not only ensure the success of their chapter, but also to leave a positive impact on the community. For this award there will be one winner from each council.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Outstanding Council Officer

The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions, dedication, and hard work of members of the community who served on a council in the last calendar year. This officer made great contributions to the council not only through their ability to delegate and make crucial decisions, but also by acting as the glue that keeps the council together.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Outstanding Scholar

This award recognizes a student who exemplifies the true spirit of scholarship through both academic excellence and meaningful engagement across campus. Nominees must be among the highest-achieving students within their chapter, as demonstrated by their cumulative GPA, which must be included in the nomination and will be verified by the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Development (CFSD).

In addition to outstanding academic performance, the nominee should demonstrate a strong commitment to leadership, involvement, and service within the fraternity and sorority community, as well as the broader campus. This includes—but is not limited to—leadership roles in student organizations, campus initiatives, research, community outreach, and involvement in programs that promote learning and development beyond the classroom. One student will be selected who not only excels academically but also serves as a role model and actively contributes to creating a vibrant, engaged, and intellectually curious fraternity and sorority community.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Emerging Leader of the Year

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding newer members of the fraternity and sorority community who are viewed as emerging leaders. This member has taken the initiative to take on leadership roles and responsibilities to better the organization and leave a positive impact on the Greek community. **Only members initiated in 2026 calendar year are eligible for this award.**

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

Fraternity and Sorority Member of the Year

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding member of the fraternity and sorority life community who are viewed as involved, outstanding leaders for both their council and chapter. This member has made an impact of UConn Community along with the Fraternity and Sorority community throughout their membership in their organization. **Only Junior or Senior members are eligible for this award.**

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Campus Partner of the Year

The purpose of this award is to recognize the work of a campus partner that helps elevate the UConn Fraternity and Sorority Life Community. This partner goes above and beyond to connect with students, advocates to enhance the mission of the community.

The Staff in the Center of Fraternity and Sorority Development will review and choose the winner for this award.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.

NEW INDIVIDUAL AWARDS 2027:

UConn Cornerstone Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize senior members who have demonstrated sustained, engaged membership throughout their undergraduate experience. These individuals exemplify their chapter's values through their actions, consistently participate in chapter life, and contribute to the success and development of others. Through their reliability, integrity, and commitment to their organization, they serve as a cornerstone of their chapter and leave a positive legacy for future members.

Nominees must have remained actively involved throughout their time in the chapter, demonstrating a continued commitment to participation, service, and meaningful relationships. They mentor younger members, support chapter initiatives, and model the responsibilities and values of lifelong membership. Their engagement should reflect consistent contributions across their membership experience, including their senior year.

A formal leadership position is not required for this award. Nominees must, however, demonstrate leadership abilities through their actions within the chapter and/or the greater UConn community. This may include taking

initiative, supporting peers, leading by example, and helping others contribute positively to the organization and campus.

Only senior members are eligible for this award. Each chapter may nominate up to five individuals, with up to two recipients selected from each chapter.
The Staff in the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development will review or designate a special group of reviewers to review and select recipients for this award.

Nomination Requirements:

- Impact Letter from the Chapter describing the nominee's sustained engagement, values alignment, and contributions throughout their membership.
- Complete reflection questions in the application.
- Confirm the nominee's senior standing, anticipated graduation date, and semester and year of initiation.
- Provide specific examples of consistent chapter participation, mentorship of younger members, and support for chapter initiatives, including during their senior year.
- Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership abilities within the chapter and/or the greater UConn community, regardless of whether they held a formal leadership position.
- Attach all other materials that would support your nomination.