

## **Student Leadership and Service Awards Nomination Guide!**

Below are examples of winning nominations (names have been replaced)

### **Example Nomination for Student Initiated Program Award**

Two residents from Russell A1, YouDee, and Blue Hen, planned an event for their floor right before finals during fall semester. The two applied for funding through a NETSI, and went out to buy bread, eggs, and pancake supplies ahead of time. On the morning of the event, the two woke up early -- much earlier than their peers -- to cook french toast and prepare various other breakfast foods for the floor. Once the event began, almost the entire floor attended to enjoy breakfast and one another's company. Though the event was originally planned for A1, residents from all throughout Russell A attended it (as well as some from Russell B-E). So many people attended, that they began to have to bring their own food items to contribute. Over the course of the breakfast, nearly fifty people came and went and were able to spend time discussing all of things that they accomplished during the fall semester, and all of the things that they were looking forward to for the spring.

During the event, those who attended were able to use the time to de-stress and reflect on their time as residents in Russell and their growth through their first semester of college. YouDee and Blue Hen provided a space for everyone to come together and appreciate one another and the time that they were able to spend bonding and growing as individuals and as a group.

YouDee and Blue Hen sacrificed time that they could have spent studying or completing other assignments in order to create this space for reflection and growth. Their contribution to the community was one that touched myself and, I'm sure, many, many other people on Russell A1, as well as throughout the building. They took into account the overall benefit that the event would have on their community, and they chose to prioritize that. This event allowed for residents on A1 to grow closer, but also to form new relationships with those who may have come from Russell B, or even Russell D. These relationships flourished throughout the Spring Semester, and I feel as though this Breakfast in Bed event greatly contributed to the prosperity of relationships in Russell Residence Hall.

### **Example Nomination for Citizen of the Year Award**

I, nominate Baby Blue for the Citizen of the Year 2018 award. I have been able to observe Baby Blue activate others on our floor and contribute beyond the expected capacity of a residential student. Since the first day of move in August, Baby Blue has always been viewed as a leader on our floor. Baby Blue wanted to make sure that people felt included and that her floor felt like a family. In our first floor meeting Baby Blue volunteered to be the Birthday Committee chair and since then has decorated every person's door for their birthday since. She has filled out a multitude of You+2's to obtain decorations and small personalized gifts. Baby Blue initiated a survey of people's favorite color, candy, experiences and has tailored everyone's birthday experienced based on this. This has had a great impact on our floor and has contributed to creating an environment where everyone feels safe and welcomed.

Our NET Captain, voiced that Baby Blue has shown true compassion and heart by taking it upon herself to celebrate each and every birthday on the floor like it was her own. She decorates and gives personalized gifts to make sure everyone feels at home and appreciated. She is always someone you can trust to go with an issue, and she is the first person at your door if you are feeling down. Despite her academic requirements and the requirements of her sports team, she constantly goes above and beyond the call of duty to help others and make you feel special. Baby Blue is one of the most selfless people I know, and I am honored to call her my friend.

A Citizen of the Year is someone who takes great concern for the safety of others. Baby Blue's actions have embodied this sentiment Baby Blue has always ensured that people return safely if they are participating in nighttime activities and ensures that they are in a safe condition. In situations where her peers have not been safe, Baby Blue has always reached out for help to ensure the safety of her community. Baby Blue has been able to educate others and has utilized UD's Amnesty Policy to get people the help that they need. I am confident that people on our floor look to Baby Blue when concerns arise.

I also have nominated Baby Blue for Citizen of the Year for her ability to exemplify what it means to be a role model and a Blue Hen. Baby Blue has shown to others on our floor what it means to be able to balance a rigorous academic schedule with her Athletic Training Major, Strength and Conditioning minor and Aerospace Military Leadership minor with her extracurricular activities in ROTC and Club Softball. Baby Blue always has time to stop and talk to you in the hallway and puts on a great smile that makes your day better. Baby Blue has helped her fellow peers go through tough times in the semester such as exams, relationship issues, and other difficult situations. The community of Gilbert 4B can always count on Baby Blue as someone to vent and talk through situations. Baby Blue has also been able to work with Gilbert 4A to build a relationship between both sides of the floor to create an overall floor community. We have been able to do floor wide floor meetings, recognition and bonding because of Baby Blue actions.

Meg is selfless and has done extraordinary work in developing the nature of our community this semester without asking for anything in return. I know that Baby Blue will go on to impact people around her next year and continue to effortlessly build communities around her. It has been a pleasure to nominate Baby Blue for the Citizenship of the Year award and I hope that you will be able to recognize her impact and work in the First Year area.

### **Example Nomination for Community Chair of the Year Award**

"The first time that I talked with YoUDee was when he checked into Kent Hall during move-in for upperclassmen. The first thing I noticed about YoUDee was how engaging he was in conversation, and how excited he was for the upcoming school year. His excitement certainly rubbed off, and it made me feel much less worried about interacting with residents for the first time. In a later discussion, I found out that YoUDee was interested in becoming a community chair for his floor in order to help organize events that would allow everybody to interact and get to know each other. I truly admire his dedication to being involved, and his enthusiasm helped me break down my wall of nervousness with interacting with my residents.

Once YoUDee became a community chair, we had an introductory meeting about events he was interested in hosting, and after feeling out the interests of the third and fourth floors, Jake decided to host a movie night as a way for his fellow residents to connect and interact with each other. When I popped my head into his movie night, I was blown away by the sheer number of individuals who attended the night! Even more residents attended the movie night than my floor meetings! I was very impressed that YoUDee created an event that took the floors interests in movie nights and genres, and actually put together a functional program that brought the floor together. What was even more impressive was that, not only did Jake successfully bring residents together for a single event, but he continued the trend by holding a series of movie nights that revolved around a single movie series. YoUDee was able to balance his priorities well this year; he had a full plate between his involvement with his role as community chair, his leadership training with RUF, and his success in completing the Resident Assistant Application Process. YoUDee was able to show dedication to all of these positions, and his abilities to promote floor interest in his floor events were amazing.

Floormate Testimonial: YoUDee has been an awesome member of our community. YoUDee has showed perseverance with trying to get people involved on his floor. He also is consistent with asking for feedback to create the most engaging events possible. I have enjoyed watching YoUDee grow as a resident and continue to build community through conversations and events with people in Kent Hall. YoUDee also sought my help to plan his events throughout the fall semester and has been able to successfully execute his events through the Spring semester on his own."

### **Example Nomination for Advocacy Award**

James Smith and Thomas McKean RAs would like to nominate the combined efforts of the LGBTQ+ and Racial Justice Activism LLC, the Art LLC, and all the individuals who helped to create the beautiful mobile mural that has been installed in James Smith Hall for the Advocacy Spotlight Award. The mural came about through a grant that the LGBTQ+ and Racial Justice Activism LLC was awarded, and advocates for visibility and support of the LLC and for queer people and people of color in the residence halls and across campus. The mural was specially designed to be moveable, enabling it to follow the LLC to whichever residence hall it is located in each year to increase representation, awareness, and inclusivity. This mural has already made a major positive impact on James Smith Hall, as both residents and RAs alike have noted that the main lounge feels more welcoming as a result of its installation. The mural has reinforced and represented the needs and voices of the LLC community in multiple ways. First, chalkboard paint panels were included on some pillars to allow residents to express themselves and share their thoughts, experiences, and quotes relevant to the mural's theme and impact on their lives. For those individuals who felt that their emotions and ideas were better represented without words, other creative expressions such as smaller works of art have been added to the chalkboards. These boards allow for deeper discussions within the community due to their interactive component. For residents who might not have previously known that LLC exists, the mural and chalkboards prompt them to think about these pertinent social justice issues and how they might impact them and be impacted by them. Finally, as part of the celebration for the completion of the mural, a tree was installed where those who worked on the mural were encouraged to write down and hang onto its branches what construction of the mural meant to them. Some of the responses were: inspired, vulnerable, empowered, connected, knowledgeable, enlightened, strengthen community, advocacy, and uplifting. From this, the impact of the mural on the community can be seen. It is abundantly clear that the individuals who helped create the mural have a passion for LGBTQ+ and Racial Justice Activism, and their ability to express this through art is impressive and skillful. We thank everyone involved for their time and dedication to this project and are excited to see where the future takes this inspiring work of art!