

BSU 2025 Sankofa Awards Application Criteria

BSU Legacy Award

Eligibility: EIU Alum

Description:

The BSU Legacy Award honors an alumnus/a/e whose life's work reflects the Sankofa principle—reaching back to honor the past while intentionally building a stronger future. This award recognizes an individual whose leadership, resilience, and service uplift the Black community and inspire future generations.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates sustained commitment to community, service, or advocacy
- Embodies Black excellence through leadership and integrity
- Serves as a role model whose impact extends beyond EIU
- Reflects the values, history, and mission of BSU

Rising Royalty Award

Eligibility: Freshman, Sophomore, or Transfer Student

Description:

The Rising Royalty Award celebrates an emerging student leader who is already making a meaningful impact early in their EIU journey. This award recognizes students who show promise, confidence, and initiative while actively engaging in leadership, involvement, and service.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates leadership potential and initiative
- Actively involved in campus organizations or activities
- Shows commitment to personal growth and community engagement
- Positively influences peers through actions and presence

Student of Distinction Award

Eligibility: Full-time EIU Student • Minimum 3.0 GPA

Description:

The Student of Distinction Award recognizes a student who excels academically while remaining actively engaged in campus and community life. This award honors individuals who balance scholarship with leadership, service, and involvement.

Criteria:

- Maintains a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Demonstrates dedication to academic success
- Actively involved in campus or community initiatives
- Exhibits responsibility, consistency, and personal accountability

Heart of BSU Award

Eligibility: Any Class Year • Active, Paid BSU Member

Description:

The Heart of BSU Award honors a member whose passion, commitment, and spirit truly embody the essence of the Black Student Union. This individual consistently shows up, supports others, and contributes to the growth and unity of the organization.

Criteria:

- Active and engaged BSU member
- Demonstrates reliability, dedication, and initiative
- Supports the mission, programs, and members of BSU
- Serves as a positive and uplifting presence within the organization

Next Legacy Award

Eligibility: Senior • Minimum 2.5 GPA • Good Academic and Disciplinary Standing

Description:

The Next Legacy Award honors a graduating senior who exemplifies Black excellence through leadership, service, and impact. This award recognizes a student who leaves EIU having built a meaningful legacy that will continue to influence the campus community.

Criteria:

- Maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Demonstrates consistent leadership and service
- Positively impacts the EIU and BSU community
- Leaves behind programs, initiatives, or influence that will endure

Organization Award

Eligibility: Registered Student Organization in Good Standing with EIU

Description:

The Organization Award recognizes a registered student organization that actively supports BSU, promotes diversity and inclusion, and fosters unity and empowerment across campus.

Criteria:

- Organization is in good standing with EIU
- Demonstrates collaboration or support of BSU initiatives
- Promotes inclusivity, cultural awareness, and community building
- Shows a commitment to positive campus impact

Cecilia Brinker Legacy Award

Eligibility: Student Leader • Active in an Organization • Minimum 2.5 GPA • Good Standing with the University

Description:

The Cecilia Brinker Legacy Award honors a confident, passionate student leader who leads with authenticity, school spirit, and presence. This award celebrates individuals who boldly stand out, inspire others, and lead with purpose.

Criteria:

- Maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Actively involved in one or more organizations
- Demonstrates confidence, authenticity, and leadership
- Positively represents EIU through character and involvement

Mona Davenport Excellence Award

Eligibility: EIU Faculty or Staff

Description:

The Mona Davenport Excellence Award recognizes a faculty or staff member who consistently goes above and beyond their professional role to support, advocate for, and mentor students. This individual serves as a trusted resource and plays a foundational role in uplifting the mission of BSU.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to student support
- Serves as a mentor, advocate, or role model
- Actively supports or uplifts the mission of BSU
- Creates inclusive, supportive, and empowering environments