

Congressional Award | Colleges & Universities

Benefits of the Award

- Encourages leadership, the development of personal character, and training opportunities for students to achieve academic excellence within their area of study
- The program can be tailored to compliment a specific degree or career path
- Students can gain real world experiences, skills and achievements that can be highlighted on job applications or resumes
- Recognizes students for activities that they may already be pursuing on and off campus
- Encourages students to actively engage themselves as citizens of their communities
- Instills students with a wide range of life skills and attributes such as goal setting, time management and self-confidence
- Provides measurable and attainable benchmarks for all students to meet, regardless of grade point average, skillsets or abilities

Getting Started

Establish Point of Contact

Congressional Award points of contact at colleges and universities vary greatly, and have included:

- Vice President of Advancement & University Counsel at Kentucky Christian University
- Assistant Dean of Students for Retention and Engagement at The College of Wooster
- Creative Programming and Technology Professor at Mississippi State University

Educate & Train

- The point of contact, and any other appropriate parties, should schedule a conference call with their Congressional Award Regional Program Manager to discuss program requirements and implementation plan to determine:
 - Registration/payment process
 - Tracking requirements
 - Congressional involvement options
- Utilize Congressional Award Website for online toolkits and examples
- Request sample materials

Develop Internal Guidelines

- Finalize registration/payment process
- Ensure students register in a manner consistent with the National Office's tracking abilities
- Consider presenting Congressional Awards at campus events

- Create incentives such as scholarships and recognition at campus events

Devise Communication/Outreach

- Draft a letter to campus groups
- Initiate direct outreach to students
- Link to website
- Set-up a Congressional Award display on campus
- Create a student group, club or Congressional Award Society
- Host a campus kick-off event, or announce the program at another scheduled campus event

Sample Outreach Groups

- Honors Programs
- Governing Bodies
 - Student Government Associations
- Social/Service Fraternities & Sororities
 - Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, etc.
- Religious & Spiritual Groups
 - Interservice Christian Fellowship
 - Multifaith Council
 - Hillel/Jewish Student Union
 - FOCUS/Catholic Student Association
- Cultural & Political Groups
 - College Democrats/Republicans
 - Spanish Club
 - Black Student Union
 - Multicultural Affairs
- Service & Social Action
 - Best Buddies
 - Relay for Life
 - Big Brothers/Big Sisters
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Active Minds
- Social Events/Campus Activity Boards
- Sports Clubs

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