Division of Student Affairs Student Leadership Award Rubric

NOTE: This rubric was created from the nominations of past leadership award recipients and encompasses the kinds of engagements for which past recipients were honored. This rubric is meant to display a range of leadership activities and attributes of student leaders. **It is by no means inclusive.** Departments should feel free to expand the criteria in ways that make sense to them.

**Award Description:** A DSA Student Leadership Award recipient is a student who has exemplified Marquette’s Mission in a significant way through involvement in activities/initiatives that demonstrate one or a combination of the following: faith that does justice, community/civic engagement, service for and with others, celebration or promotion of diversity and inclusion, advocacy/educational awareness work, mentorship or guidance, and promotion of health and wellness. A recipient will have demonstrated the concept of magis in some way (i.e. doing more for Christ, doing more for others, “the more universal good”). Magis should be thought of as depth and not necessarily quantity of engagements. A student who receives a DSA Student Leadership award is someone who has demonstrated leadership and excellence above and beyond the requirements of a paid or appointed role.

**Student:**
- Has at least a 2.5 Cumulative GPA
- Is in good standing with the university

**Student has shown leadership and excellence in one or more of the following areas:**
- Faith that Does Justice (Social Responsibility through Community Engagement)
- Community/Civic Engagement (Social Responsibility through Community Engagement)
- Service for and with Others (Social Responsibility through Community Engagement)
- Celebration/Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion (Culture of Inclusion, Social Responsibility through Community Engagement)
- Social Justice Advocacy/Education (Social Responsibility through Community Engagement, Formation of Hearts and Minds, Culture of Inclusion)
- Mentorship/Guidance (Formation of Hearts and Minds)
- Promotion of Health/Wellness (Formation of Hearts and Minds)

**Student has engaged in one or more of the following:**
- Planned and/or coordinated a large scale or significant program/event/initiative (e.g. built new website, created marketing campaign, coordinated service sites for Make a Difference Day, chaired/co-chaired a conference, planned co-planned a retreat,
- Held a leadership role in a student organization, campus program, or initiative — paid or unpaid (e.g. officer in a student organization, Community Programming Council Chair, MUSG senator, Club Sport team manager or captain, NPHC officer, RA, Orientation Planning Team, Hunger Clean-Up Chair, Homecoming planning committee, etc.)
- Held a paid role with significant responsibility (building manager, apartment manager, AMU student manager, OPT, RA, PA, DR, etc.)
- Participated in leadership development initiative(s) (STAR, Ignatian Leadership Retreat, NJSLC, GLACURH, or other local/regional/national conferences
- Participated in ongoing service programs/initiatives—apart from service learning (e.g. SERV, Midnight Run, ongoing service through a student organization, etc.)
- Has served as a leader/facilitator in some program or initiative (retreat leader, SPARK Group Discussion Leader, MAP/IMAP team leader) or has given a presentation of some kind (e.g. leadership session at NJSLC or other conference, poster session at Community Engagement Symposium or Mission Week)
- Has served in an educator role formally or informally (Bystander Intervention Training Facilitator, Wellness Peer Educator, SVPE Peer Educator, tutor, trainer, etc.)
Student demonstrates the following values/behaviors

- Openness to multiple perspectives
- Finding God in All Things
- Cura Personalis
- Inclusivity
- Emotional Intelligence
- Openness to learning
- Dialogue
- Appreciation for different cultures
- Appreciation for others’ gifts and talents
- Care for the Community
- Advocacy
- Servant leadership
- Understanding of privilege and oppression
- Dualistic thinking
- Creativity/innovation

Emerging Leader Award Description
Awarded to a first or second-year student who demonstrated initiative, motivation, and potential for continued student leadership within the university.

Rev. Andrew J. Thon, S.J. Award for Leadership
First presented in 1993, the Vice President’s Award for Distinguished Leadership, Scholarship, and Service honors a graduating senior for leadership contributions that have increased in depth and breadth to the Marquette and Milwaukee communities during the course of his or her undergraduate career. The highest honor presented by the Division of Student Affairs, this award recognizes student excellence as a leader who embodies the ideals expressed in the University Mission.

Sample nominations of previous award recipients:
(Note: names have been removed and gendered pronouns changed to neutral to conceal identities of recipients.)

Emerging Leader:
It is my pleasure to nominate [student name] for the Emerging Leader Award. [student name] has demonstrated a desire to get involved and better the Marquette community since they began their tenure as a residential senator for MUSG in fall [year].

[student name] is not shy about asking questions and voicing opinions in senate meetings, which can be intimidating for many students. They also involve themself in the work MUSG supports. For example, they volunteered to be part of the It’s On Us Campaign to raise awareness of sexual violence. They have also been active in their hall, working with RHA reps to look at residence hall policies. Additionally, they sit on MUSG’s Business and Administration committee, which is the committee the initiated the Growing Power Market Basket program. MUSG’s Legislative VP has the following to add to this nomination: “As a first-year student, [student name] has taken it upon themself to become as engaged and dedicated to Marquette University Student Government (MUSG) as they can be as well as begin to look at potential policy changes within the resident halls. They have done extensive research comparing our University to other similar Universities in regards to these policies and has set up various meetings with administrators. [student name] works well with others and in a collaborative setting. I am really looking forward to all that [student name] will accomplish!”

I have no doubt that [student name] will continue to immerse themself in more leadership opportunities at Marquette. They have already demonstrated strong leadership qualities and is a strong candidate for this award.
Thon Award for Leadership
Since coming to Marquette, [Student Name] wholeheartedly embraced Jesuit ideals and effectively modeled leadership, scholarship and service.

[Student Name] lives and leads with a pioneering spirit that explains their contributions to bringing big ideas to fruition. As a freshman [Student Name] helped start MU’s first composting program by organizing students, meeting with administrators and partnering with community organizations such as Growing Power. As a sophomore they helped launch the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) student ambassador program by planning speaker events, simulations on social justice issues and educational workshops, as well as teaching their peers about CRS and how to engage their faith on campus. [Student Name] was actively building student interest in both of these areas prior to them being prominently featured as important ways to engage with MU’s mission in the ’15 and ’16 Mission Week celebrations.

[Student Name] has been involved with two key MU initiatives endorsed by President Lovell. As a junior [Student Name] took on a student leadership role with the Social Innovation Initiative and has since played a key role in shaping how students from across MU engage in social innovation. Currently they are the president of Changemakers.

When the Promoting Assets and Reducing Crime (PARC) partnership between MU and the Near West Side Partners was announced, [Student Name] was the first student to show up at the Center for Peacemaking to ask how they could get involved. As a senior they coordinated a team of student volunteers that surveyed NWS residents, conducted a commercial corridor audit and served as the student face of PARC by presenting to the freshman class at orientation and coordinating an Urban Connection site.

[Student Name]’s scholarship includes an outstanding academic record and working with faculty on community-based research. As a junior they and Dr. Drope researched the impact of the global tobacco industry on farmers and governments in the developing world, and as a senior they and Dr. Wichowsky (MU Democracy Lab) measure and develop strategies to increase civic engagement in Milwaukee’s Near West Side. Beyond scholarship, [Student Name] has been involved with Midnight Run, MAP, Global Business Brigades–India, the South Africa Service Learning program, and many other service activities.

It is clear that [Student Name] has been transformed by their Marquette education. It is equally clear that [Student Name]’s leadership, scholarship, and service have left an indelible mark on the Marquette experience of current and future students.

Nomination2:
[Student Name] lives and leads with a pioneering spirit that explains their knack for playing a role in bringing big ideas to fruition. As a freshman [Student Name] helped start MU’s first composting program by organizing students, meeting with administrators and partnering with community organizations such as Growing Power. As a sophomore they helped launch the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) student ambassador program by planning speaker events, simulations on social justice issues and educational workshops, as well as teaching their peers about CRS and how to engage their faith on campus. [Student Name] was actively building student interest in both of these areas prior to them being prominently featured as important ways to engage with MU’s mission in the ’15 and ’16 Mission Week celebrations.

[Student Name] has also been involved with two key MU initiatives endorsed by President Lovell. As a junior [Student Name] took on a student leadership role with the Social Innovation Initiative and has since played a key role in shaping how students from across MU engage in social innovation. Currently they are the president of Changemakers.

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Other awards:

Sample 1
[Student Name] is an incredible student leader who regularly goes far beyond expectations and constantly strives to live the magis in a balanced and healthy way. [Student Name] is involved in a number of significant leadership positions in Campus Ministry. They serve as the liturgical assistant (paid-position), an MC for Ignite, and as a retreat leader. Previously [Student Name] has served on the RCIA team and in numerous other ministry related positions. During the summer and into the fall semester, [Student Name] poured incredible amounts of time and effort into their position as the liturgical assistant. This came during a time when the office had no director of liturgy. Without [Student Name]’s generous offering of time and expertise, none of the university’s beginning of the year liturgies and liturgical minister trainings would have happened – or happened as seamlessly as they appeared. Our office is significantly in debt to him for helping the year start off smoothly. [Student Name] poured countless extra hours into all aspects of liturgy planning, which included work on the Mass of the Holy Spirit. There is no compensation that could be offered him to parallel their contributions. In addition to their continuing liturgical leadership, [Student Name] has brought energy and innovation to their role as MC for Ignite. [Student Name]’s humor, on the spot reflections, and expressed genuine moments of discovery have helped make Ignite a fun and effective witness to community and faith on campus. [Student Name] is known for laughing at their own jokes and uncovering new inspirational memes that help faith connect with the lives of peers. It would be fair to say that [Student Name] helps make “the” Ignite moments happen. Their passion for faith and love of God oozes out of their presentations as MC. In addition, [Student Name] served as a leader on this year’s Ignatian Leadership Retreat and was a great contributor to the experience. Their vibrant faith life was inspiring to the students who attended and led with him, and their warm nature helped everyone feel at ease. They were willing to serve in any way needed for the good of the retreatants, and they have maintained many ties with them as the year has unfolded. In January, [Student Name] participated in the March for Life pilgrimage. Their leadership and encouragement helped fellow pilgrims stay hopeful and joyful during an unplanned extended stay in Washington, DC, due to severe winter weather. [Student Name] is most definitely one of the brightest stars in student ministerial leadership on this campus. Their depth of reflection and hunger to constantly improve inspire peers and those around him.

Sample 2
Throughout high school, [Student Name] volunteered with refugee youth in their hometown. As a freshman at Marquette, they quickly sought out opportunities to follow this passion to Milwaukee. [Student Name] began mentoring a preteen through the Southeast Asian Literacy Program (or SEA Literacy), a relationship that has continued each semester and summer. [Student Name] is dedicated to their mentee and their family, spending time with their outside of the normal tutoring program hours, attending important school events, and being a constant and loving presence in their life as their family transitions to life in the United States.

Their sophomore year, [Student Name] joined the Marquette Volunteer Corps team at SEA Literacy and quickly became a Team Leader. She also began working as a Program Assistant in the Center for Community Service. [Student Name] is an educator - they slipped easily into these roles of helping their peers dig deeper into service.
She gets frustrated when they see others choosing to be blind to social justice, but is a proud mother hen when they sees someone learn and grow. Most noteworthy, [Student Name] co-coordinated a new service retreat aimed at helping already-involved students dig deeper into issues of identity, community, and service. [Student Name] consistently goes above and beyond in both their Program Assistant (paid) and Team Leader (volunteer) roles. [Student Name] has also facilitated MAP trips and been involved in a number of other community engagement roles.

What impresses me about [Student Name] is their continual look towards personal growth and understanding of the world around them. [Student Name] is most joyful when they is learning or experiencing something new, even if it requires them to come more to terms with difficult, gritty realities. Although they get frustrated with the challenges they see, they also keep a positive attitude and sense of humor.

[Student Name] has recently identified a strong sense of vocation, pursuing a career path that combines their passions of nursing and social justice. In hopes of working in health policy and advocacy, [Student Name] will be spending the summer in the Les Aspin program and will pursue a joint graduate degree, preparing them for a career of addressing injustice at a systemic level, while also caring for people individually as a practicing nurse.