



FLORIDA HOUSING OFFICERS (FHO) AWARDS GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The FHO Awards program exists to recognize the outstanding contributions of professionals, graduate students, student staff, corporate partners, and collaborators who advance the mission of Housing and Residence Life across Florida. These awards highlight innovation, service, collaboration, and excellence in our field.

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Service Awards

Description:

Recognizes individuals from each member institution who have demonstrated exceptional service, dedication, and impact within their housing department or the broader campus community over the last six months.

Eligibility:

Any professional staff member (full-time or graduate) at an FHO-member institution.

Criteria for Nomination:

- Demonstrated commitment to the mission and goals of their department.
- Positive impact on students, staff, or the institution through their work.
- Initiative in going above and beyond their typical job responsibilities.

Submission Instructions:

- Nominations must be submitted by a colleague or supervisor from the same institution.
- Each institution may submit only one nominee.

2. Outstanding Professional Awards

Description:

Honors housing professionals at various levels of leadership who have made significant contributions to their institution, FHO, and the field of student housing.

Award Levels (select one per nomination):

- Graduate Students
- Entry-Level Professional
- Lower Mid-Level Professional (*Supervises Entry-Level Professionals*)
- Upper Mid-Level Professional (*Supervises Lower Mid-Level Professionals*)
- Unit Head (*Directors or senior managers of functional units*)
- Senior Housing Officer (*Chief Housing Officer or equivalent*)

Eligibility:

Must be currently employed in a qualifying role at an FHO-member institution. The individual should have served in that role for at least six months.

Criteria for Nomination:

- Excellence in leadership, mentorship, and service to the campus community.
- Innovation in housing operations, student success initiatives, or staff development.
- Dedication to fostering inclusive and engaging residential environments.

Submission Instructions:

- Nominations may be submitted by colleagues, supervisors, or professional peers.

3. Outstanding Corporate Partner Award**Description:**

Recognizes a corporate partner who has consistently demonstrated exceptional support, engagement, and collaboration with FHO and its member institutions.

Eligibility:

Open to any corporate sponsor or vendor who has partnered with FHO in the past year.

Criteria for Nomination:

- Significant contributions to the FHO mission and events.
- Displays professionalism, responsiveness, and a collaborative spirit.
- Actively engages with members beyond sponsorship alone.

Submission Instructions:

- Provide specific examples of involvement with FHO (e.g., conference sponsorships, programs, or resource sharing).

4. Academic Collaboration Award**Description:**

Honors a department, faculty member, or academic initiative that has meaningfully partnered with campus housing to promote student success and academic engagement.

Eligibility:

Academic collaborators or departments that have worked with a housing/residence life unit within an FHO-member institution.

Criteria for Nomination:

- Evidence of strong collaboration with housing (e.g., Living Learning Communities, tutoring, co-curricular programming).
- Measurable impact on student retention, academic success, or co-curricular learning.
- Demonstrated innovation in bridging academics and residential life.

Submission Instructions:

- Optional: Provide relevant documentation or assessment data.

5. Student Leadership Impact Award**Description:**

Recognizes a student leadership organization that has demonstrated outstanding involvement, collaboration, and impact on residential life and the FHO community.

Eligibility:

Any student-run group or organization at an FHO-member institution (e.g., RHA, NRHH, Hall Council, or a unique housing-based student group).

Criteria for Nomination:

- Active engagement in residence life programming, advocacy, or leadership.
- Demonstrated collaboration with housing staff or departments.
- Contribution to the growth, well-being, and success of residential students.

Submission Instructions:

- Include one letter of support from a professional staff advisor or housing staff member.
- Optional: Include photos, event flyers, or media showcasing the group's activities.

6. Residential Engagement Award

Description:

The Residential Engagement Award recognizes an individual—whether from the housing department, another university department, or the broader community—who has made a significant and lasting impact on the residential experience. This award honors those who go above and beyond to foster meaningful engagement, support, and development opportunities for residential students.

Eligibility:

Open to any staff member, faculty member, administrator, or community partner (on- or off-campus) who has positively influenced the residential student experience at an FHO-member institution. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Housing staff (professional, graduate, or paraprofessional)
- Campus partners (e.g., Student Affairs, Counseling, Academic Support)
- Community members or organizations working closely with residence life

Criteria for Nomination:

- Demonstrated commitment to enhancing student life within the residence halls or campus housing communities.
- Implementation or support of initiatives that increase engagement, belonging, or well-being among residential students.
- A collaborative and inclusive approach to building community across departments or populations.
- Evidence of innovation, consistency, or measurable outcomes tied to residential engagement.

Submission Instructions:

- Include at least **one letter of support** from a colleague, student, or partner who has witnessed the nominee's impact.
- Optional: Supplement the nomination with supporting materials (e.g., photos, program flyers, student testimonials, data summaries).
- Nominations may be submitted by professional staff, students, or campus/community partners.

AWARD NOMINATION GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Nomination Process

- **Deadline:** All nominations must be submitted by **October 17, 2025 @11:59 PM EST**.
- Nominations should include:
 1. Completed nomination form.
 2. A narrative (500–750 words) addressing award criteria.
 3. Optional supporting documents (letters of support, data, program examples, etc.).
- Self-nominations are permitted.
- Recipients will be announced prior to the FHO Annual Fall Meeting.

Selection Process

- A designated **Awards Committee** will review nominations.
- Committee members must recuse themselves from categories where conflicts of interest exist.
- Selections will be based on how well nominees meet award criteria, quality of supporting documentation, and demonstration of impact.

Recognition

- Award recipients will be recognized at the **FHO Annual Fall Meeting Awards & Recognition Ceremony**.
- Honorees will receive a certificate or plaque, and their achievements will be highlighted in FHO communications.