

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS, INC.



NACURH

THE LINK

Volume 7, Issue 1





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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 year, I am reminded of the power of community, resilience, and leadership that shines across NACURH. This year, under the theme — **Empower Your NACURH Journey**, we embraced the challenge of defining what empowerment means in practice. We saw student leaders step forward with courage, creating spaces of belonging, advocating for change, and finding creative ways to support their peers.

Empowerment took many forms. It looked like trying something new, even when the outcome was uncertain. It looked like uplifting a fellow leader when they doubted themselves. And it looked like standing tall in your own voice, knowing that your perspective matters. Together, we proved that empowerment is not a moment — it's a mindset. It is the ongoing commitment to building stronger communities and stronger leaders.

Now, as we step into the new year with the theme — **NACURH Starts with You**, we are reminded that this organization thrives because of the individuals who choose to lead, to care, and to connect. NACURH does not begin with policies or programs — it begins with the students who make the choice each day to build something greater than themselves. It starts with the courage to speak up, the creativity to innovate, and the dedication to create spaces where others can flourish.

So I ask you: how will you take ownership of your journey this year? How will you ensure that your leadership leaves a mark on those around you? NACURH starts with you. Your story, your leadership, and your willingness to empower others. The future of this organization is written by the choices you make and the risks you are willing to take.

As we enter this next chapter, carry forward the lessons of empowerment. Remember that your leadership matters, your presence matters, and most importantly — **you matter**. **NACURH starts with you**, and because of you, our community will continue to grow, thrive, and inspire.

Diamond & Links Love,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keri Nguyen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keri Nguyen
NACURH Associate for Engagement



VICTORY FOR THE VANDALS: IDAHO NAMED NACURH SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Residence hall leaders transform student engagement, win NACURH's top honor

LEADING WITH VISION

The University of Idaho's Residence Hall Association (RHA) and National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) have been proudly recognized as the NACURH 2025 Intermountain Affiliate School of the Year. This award celebrates a year defined by bold restructuring, innovative programming, and a deep commitment to student leadership and advocacy.

BUILDING STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

This year, RHA underwent a transformative restructuring, moving to a Housing Area Team (HAT) model. By streamlining membership and empowering smaller teams, Idaho increased leadership buy-in and communication across the organization. Today, 90% of leadership positions are filled, and weekly meetings bring all members together for unified decision-making and collaboration.

GROWTH IN RECOGNITION & SERVICE

The Vandal Chapter of NRHH expanded dramatically, nearly tripling its membership through intentional recruitment. With new roles like Director of Service and Director of Recruitment, the chapter launched impactful service projects, including environmental initiatives and volunteer efforts at regional conferences.



2,160

residents engaged
across 6 living areas



90%

leadership roles filled
after restructure



\$54K

in student funds
managed responsibly



PROGRAMMING THAT CONNECTS

From the 46th annual Tower Trick-or-Treat to new creative events like Traveling Pies and RHA Days, Idaho delivered programs that combined fun with meaningful community impact. These traditions showcase how RHA brings people together in unique and lasting ways.

3,000+

residents engaged
in programming

39

events hosted
this year

400

children welcomed at
Tower Trick-or-Treat

REGIONAL & NACURH LEADERSHIP

On the regional stage, Idaho students made their mark by winning multiple OTM awards and hosting the RBSea 2025 Regional Business Conference. This aquatic-themed event brought together leaders across campus and NACURH, while also giving back through a philanthropy project that donated 178 children’s books to local schools.



“ There is nothing that these students cannot do if they put their minds to it... They are professional, passionate, and just super fun people. ”

— *Charity Wight, RHA Advisor*



A CULTURE OF FUN & RECOGNITION

What makes Idaho truly stand out is its culture. From the playful naming of their office coffee maker, “Chauncey,” to the Top HAT awards that spotlight outstanding leaders, RHA has built an environment where fun, belonging, and recognition go hand in hand.

THE BEST BY FAR

The University of Idaho’s recognition as School of the Year is more than an accolade. It’s a testament to the power of student leadership when vision, collaboration, and campus pride come together. Vandals have set a new standard for residence life leadership—on campus, in IACURH, and across NACURH.

TAKING THE LEAP: MY JOURNEY THROUGH NACURH LEADERSHIP

Thomas Schartner, Corporate Office Associate Director for Recognition & Engagement

In July of 2024, I got an email that changed everything.

I was sitting in a hotel room in Cheyenne, WY, on the second day of my three-day trip to Salt Lake City, UT. I was riding the high from the 2024 NACURH Annual Conference and the excitement of starting graduate school in a few short weeks when a message popped up in my inbox. I applied to join the NACURH Corporate Office (NCO) to fill a vacancy in the Associate Director for Recognition & Engagement position—honestly, more on a whim than anything else. I didn't expect to get the position, especially since I knew they were doing a good amount of interviews. I just knew I wasn't quite ready to be done with NACURH.

Little did I know that saying yes to that opportunity would shape the rest of my graduate school journey.

Before diving into NCO leadership, I had already spent two years as an NRHH President. I wrote multiple bids, both regionally and for NACURH, and genuinely loved celebrating the unsung heroes in residence life. I knew what recognition meant. I knew the power of engagement. And more than anything, I knew I wanted to keep being part of something that made students feel seen, appreciated, and empowered.

When I joined the NCO, it was exactly what I had hoped it would be: exciting, inspiring, and full of new people who were just as passionate as I was. I was creating NRHH resources, collaborating with other leaders across NACURH, and finally getting to see how the magic happened behind the scenes. It was fun, dynamic, and deeply fulfilling. I thought to myself, This is it. This is what I've been looking for.



**And then,
things *changed*.**





A series of unexpected vacancies and hardships hit the NCO, and suddenly, we were a much smaller team. We were left asking, How do we keep going? I didn't expect to find myself in a position where I had to step up so quickly—or so much.

But I did.

I started drafting legislation, showing up more boldly in NNBD meetings, and representing our office at the Semi-Annual Business Conference. I wasn't just contributing—I was helping lead. And while it was intimidating at times, it was also empowering.

Throughout the second semester, I leaned in harder. I helped write and pass critical legislation, coordinated the award bidding process for the Annual Conference, and worked on all things NRHH—sometimes late at night, sometimes on weekends, but always with purpose. I saw how, even when things felt heavy, the work mattered. Recognition still mattered. The students we served still mattered.

At the upcoming 2025 NACURH Annual Conference, I'll be stepping into a new role as the IACURH Regional Director. It feels surreal to say that. It's another leap. Another chance to grow, lead, and serve.

If you're thinking about getting involved in NACURH leadership, do it. Take the chance. Apply for that position. Write that bid. Show up to that meeting. You don't need to have all the answers—you just need to care.

Because here's the truth: *your voice matters in NACURH.*

Whether you're a first-time delegate or a seasoned student leader, there is always space for you to grow, connect, and make real change. It's not always easy, but it's always worth it.

So here's your sign to put yourself out there. The next email that changes everything might be waiting in your inbox, too.

NACURH 2025 AWARD BID RECIPIENTS

DANIEL SILER PROGRAM OF THE YEAR
Missouri State University

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Triona Leach
Missouri State University

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE AWARD
Kendall Clark
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

HALLENBECK LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD
Jana Jordan-Miller
Clemson University

NCC OF THE YEAR
Joe Maple
Northeastern University

OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY INITIATIVE
University of South Carolina

RHA BUILDING BLOCK OF THE YEAR
University of Colorado Boulder

RHA PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR
Ann-Adele Blassingame
Northern Colorado University

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
University of Idaho

STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Cory Tompkins
Northern Arizona University

DR. VALERIE AVERILL ADVISOR OF THE YEAR
Madeline Azari
University of Colorado Boulder

NRHH BUILDING BLOCK CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
Colonel Chapter
Eastern Kentucky University

NRHH OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
Dr. Neil Potter Chapter
Northern Arizona University

NRHH OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Emma Anderson-Stem
North Dakota State University

NRHH PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR
Laila Doyle
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

LEADING WITH HEART: CLAIRE WESTBY HONORED WITH THE NACURH SERVICE AWARD

Claire Westby's leadership has left an enduring mark on NACURH. From her start as an NCC in the Intermountain region to her role as Director for Information & Services, Claire has consistently led with purpose, innovation, and care. She revitalized the affiliation process, and secured NCO voting rights within the Joint Boards — ensuring every voice was heard.

Serving as the sole NCO Director this past year, Claire managed affiliation, legislation, operations, and finances with remarkable resilience. Her leadership not only stabilized the office but inspired a new generation of student leaders to serve.

"Working alongside Claire has reignited my passion for NACURH," shared Thomas Schartner, NCO ADRE.

Claire's dedication and selflessness embodies the spirit of the NACURH Service Award — leaving the organization stronger, more connected, and full of heart.

NACURH 2024-2025 PIN RECIPIENTS



A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: HONORING JEN KACERE WITH KEN STONER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

For more than ten years, Jen Kacere has exemplified what it means to lead with purpose and heart. From her early days as MACURH Regional Advisor to her role as NACURH Conference Resource Consultant, Jen has elevated conference operations, advisor development, and student engagement across the corporation. She supports 17 conference teams annually, mentors countless leaders, and has implemented sustainable systems that make NACURH stronger each year.

Beyond her expertise, Jen is known for her contagious spirit — often seen bringing energy and joy in a NACURH mascot suit. Her recognitions, from Gold Links to the Cindy Fendrick Award, reflect a career rooted in passion, mentorship, and service. Jen’s legacy will continue to shape NACURH for years to come.

GOLD LINKS PIN

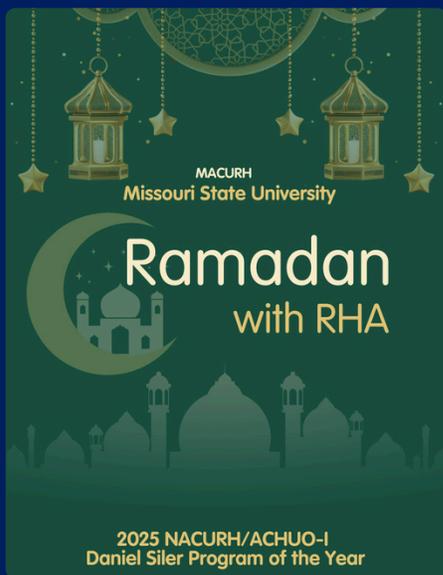
Kelsie Dillard
Michelle Bernstein
Carissa French
Thomas Schartner
Claire Westby
Taylor Daker
Tommy Newsom II
Lucy Ade

GOLD DIAMOND PIN

Payton Branson
Thomas Schartner
Olivia May
Dr. Valerie Averill
James MacGregor
Katie Knoll
Ofri Leshem
Patrick Rosengrant

SILVER TURTLE PIN

Jamaica Ethington
Viviana Romero
Alex Duran
Hannah Leibowitz
Carson Markovic
Nick Schiller
Jac Thomas
Keri Nguyen
Michael Kirkpatrick
Lucy Ade
Claire Westby
Joshua Villanueva
Kaytlyn McGray
Danielle Duran
Dr. Jamie Lloyd
Holly Peterson
Kyan Stuart
Liz Thomason
Mark Hudson
Jen Kacere
Karina Ogunlana



CELEBRATING CULTURE: RAMADAN WITH RHA NAMED PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Inclusive dining and dialogue earn NACURH/ACHUO-I Daniel Siler Program of the Year 2025

Ramadan with RHA was an event hosted by the Residence Hall Association at Missouri State University in collaboration with Dining Services and the Muslim Student Association. The event was hosted in February 2024, allowing time to provide education surrounding Ramadan prior to the holiday starting. The event offered a traditional meal picked out by our Muslim Student Association that made students feel like home. The meal was offered during our late-night dining hours, allowing students to use their meal plans to attend the event. The Residence Hall Association purchased over 100 meal vouchers for students who wanted to attend but did not have meal plans. During the program, students presented information about Ramadan for those who were not familiar with the holiday and observance. Dining Services then shared the resources they had available to accommodate students who were observing the holiday. Specifically, they presented the Suhoor packs available for students to order and pick up to ensure students had an option for protein rich food after sundown. This event was intended to be an educational experience that helped celebrate and raise awareness of a holiday which so many of our students may not be familiar. We wanted to increase the cultural competence of our students while also providing resources to help those observing Ramadan be successful.

RAMADAN WITH RHA BY THE NUMBERS

300+

students in
attendance

30+

volunteers
throughout the
program

15+

campus partners
involved



Cultural appreciation and cultural competence were key components of this event. The Muslim Student Association collaborated with Dining Services to select a culturally accurate menu, providing many students with comfort foods from home. For other students, this provided a new dining experience. The Muslim Student Association also collaborated with the Residence Hall Association to select decorations for the event. This helped make sure the decorations were an appreciation and celebration of Ramadan.

Overall, we found great success in this event. We had over 300 students attend the event, and attendees were comprised of both individuals who observe the holiday as well as those who were unfamiliar with Ramadan but wanted to learn more. Those observing the holiday left the event knowing what steps they needed to take to get food during Ramadan. The event also created a space for dialogue surrounding the dietary needs of our students. There have been changes to our Dining Services program and Halal meat is now permanently offered in three different ways at one of our dining centers. This means our students always have access to Halal meat without having to make a special request to Dining Services. We hope this event will continue to grow each year and can continue to be a space to celebrate and advocate for our students.

“ The Ramadan Program was such a success that we are planning to hold this event annually. It created a positive impact for students and shared essential information we may not reach otherwise. ”

— MaryJo Miller, Missouri State Dining Services



“ Ramadan with RHA is an excellent example of identifying a problem and delivering a solution. This program created permanent changes in their dining centers while fostering cultural awareness. ”

— MACURH Regional Board of Directors

SWAPPING ACROSS NACURH

Connecting regions and strengthening leadership one conference at a time.

As part of NACURH Leadership, students and advisors have the opportunity to attend conferences in other regions — an experience known as swapping. A NACURH swap guest represents their home region while engaging in networking, collaboration, and conference support across the corporation. Through these exchanges, leaders gain new perspectives, strengthen interregional partnerships, and bring home fresh ideas to enhance their own communities.

At GLACURH's RLC, Carissa French saw how small structural choices create big impact. From colorful spirit displays to efficient minutes, she left inspired to strengthen collaboration and accessibility in MACURH. The swap reaffirmed that every region contributes uniquely to NACURH's collective growth.

Swapping to GLACURH gave Hannah Leibowitz fresh confidence and community. Through boardrooms and socials, she learned how different leadership styles thrive. The trip reminded her that stepping into new spaces is the best way to grow as a leader in NACURH.



Helene Obonga Tongunga's swap to MACURH showcased Midwest enthusiasm and structure. Immersed in conference operations, she gained insight into boardroom organization and regional culture. Helene returned to NEACURH energized to integrate new ideas and keep the spirit alive across NACURH.

At GLACURH's conference, Theodore Arden saw the value of balance — between structure, rest, and community. He returned to SAACURH with ideas to enhance scheduling and inclusivity. The experience reminded him that leadership growth thrives when we learn from others.



Swapping from SAACURH to NEACURH, Connor Lane discovered how different regions balance business and spirit. Observing NEACURH's neutral-host site model gave him ideas for SAACURH's conference structure and regional engagement. By sharing strategies across regions, leaders spark new ideas, and strengthen NACURH's culture of collaboration.



SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

Honoring the dedication & impact of this year's most exceptional student leaders.

The NACURH Spotlight Awards honor outstanding regional and corporate leaders who have gone above and beyond in their roles. Each award recognizes individuals whose dedication, innovation, and leadership have strengthened their teams and advanced NACURH's mission. From Directors to Associate Directors, Coordinating Officers, and Advisors, Spotlight recipients exemplify excellence through collaboration, creativity, and care. These leaders not only fulfill their responsibilities but inspire others to grow, serve, and lead with purpose — leaving a lasting impact on their regions and the organization as a whole.



Will Chiacchira led with authenticity and care, creating a culture of trust and growth. *"Will's authenticity makes others want to lead with heart,"* a peer shared — a legacy of leadership grounded in empathy and connection.



Steady and composed, **Ange Fusitua** guided IACURH with integrity and grace. Peers said, *"Ange leads with quiet strength and unwavering integrity,"* reflecting her balance of precision and compassion in leadership.



Anthony Ching inspired the pacific region through empathy and professionalism. *"His care and vision make others rise to his standard,"* a peer shared — a testament to his unifying, heart-driven leadership.

A LENDING HAND: RHA OUTSIDE OF PROGRAMMING

Lana Badan Cerqueira, University of California San Diego NCC Representative

The Inter-College Residents' Association (ICRA) at the University of California, San Diego serves 11 residential areas, accommodating almost 17,000 undergraduate residents while maintaining communication with over 300 Residential and Housing Assistants (RAs and HAs). As such, we face a unique challenge when it comes to serving our residential communities: lack of reach. Because each community has its own Residential Council and Residential Life Teams, Residential programming comes in abundance. This is what led the initiative of the Equipment Lending Program to take off.

There are numerous organizations on campus to support our residents. An example of this is our Residential councils, which are student-run governing bodies that organize events and create projects for the betterment of the residential student community. Each of our residential areas can create and run its own Res Councils, but not all do. They have their own budget separate from Residential Life and usually run larger-scale events for the entire community. With Residential Councils running events for their communities and RAs/HAs hosting events for their floor, the need for another residential programming organization has been surpassed. So, what is an organization like ICRA supposed to do?

Traditionally, ICRA spent many years focusing on making new and exciting events for Residents, but because of our size and capacity, it wasn't possible to cater our events to every resident on campus. As years went by and more residential areas opened, it became more difficult to be present in every residential community. It was time we shifted our focus to support our residential communities in new ways.



NACURH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 RECAP

More than 950 delegates from 131 institutions gathered at Illinois State University for the 2025 NACURH Annual Conference, themed Leadership Through the Looking Glass. From Roll Call to philanthropy events, delegates embraced a weekend of leadership, learning, and community.

The conference featured over 60 educational sessions, a mental health-focused keynote by ISU alum Archie Messersmith-Bunting, & entertainment ranging from karaoke and yoga to a glow event and dance. Delegates also contributed to INtegrity, a local mental health organization, raising over \$1,000 through philanthropy efforts.

With feedback highlighting meaningful connections, personal growth, and the joy of NACURH spirit, the 2025 conference was a reminder that leadership often shines in the smallest, most curious moments.

“ The entire conference was incredibly meaningful. I reconnected with old friends, made new ones, and found a community that will keep supporting me long after. ”
— Brianna Lee, Annual Conference Scholarship Recipient



950+ delegates in attendance

95% of feedback participants made at least 1 connection

60+ educational sessions presented

\$1,000 raised for INtegrity Counseling



CAACURH



GLACURH



IACURH



MACURH



NEACURH



PACURH



SAACURH



SWACURH

OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024-2025

ABOUT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Of The Year Awards are the highest level of recognition for OTMs. The Of The Year Awards shall be awarded to outstanding efforts of individuals, programs, organizations and communities. This award is designed to showcase select efforts and to assist institutions in the writing of OTMs, as well as, planning of programs and other initiatives that positively impact the residence hall communities.

ADVISOR

Justin Majors
Texas A&M University

DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Cozy Conchas and Conversations
University of California, San Diego

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Seventh Roots
University of California, San Diego

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Leila Haidar
University of California, Riverside

FIRST YEAR STUDENT

Kimberly De La Cru
University of California, Berkeley

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Shannon Harner
University of Texas, Austin

INSTITUTIONAL FACULTY / STAFF

Gloria Thomas
University of Akron

ORGANIZATION

Southwest Regional Council
Colorado State University

PASSIVE PROGRAM

In a Sticky Situation
Texas A&M University

RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Of The Year Awards
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

RESIDENCE LIFE PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Claire Gorham
University of Idaho

RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Haley McGovern
University of Northern Iowa

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

DeGraff Hall RA Staff
Florida State University

SERVICE PROGRAM

Battle of the Cent-es
North Dakota State University

SOCIAL PROGRAM

This is how you fall in love
University of California, Riverside

STUDENT STAFF MEMBER

Emma Reeves
Indiana University Bloomington

STUDENT

Ethan McKinney
Baldwin Wallace University

SPOTLIGHT

Archivals Exploration Course Presentation -
Dr. Jama Grove and Chris Brown
Centenary College of Louisiana

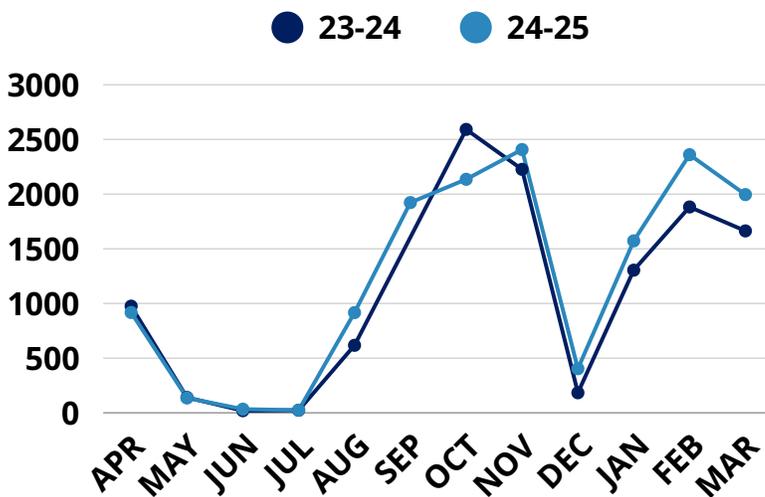
OF THE MONTH DATA

TOP 3 OTM CATEGORIES

1. Resident Assistant
2. Residence Life Pro Staff
3. Student

Over the past year, there were more than 14,000 Of The Month (OTM) nominations, celebrating leadership, service, and community across campuses. This record-breaking total reflects a renewed commitment to recognition and the lasting impact of students who make a difference every day.

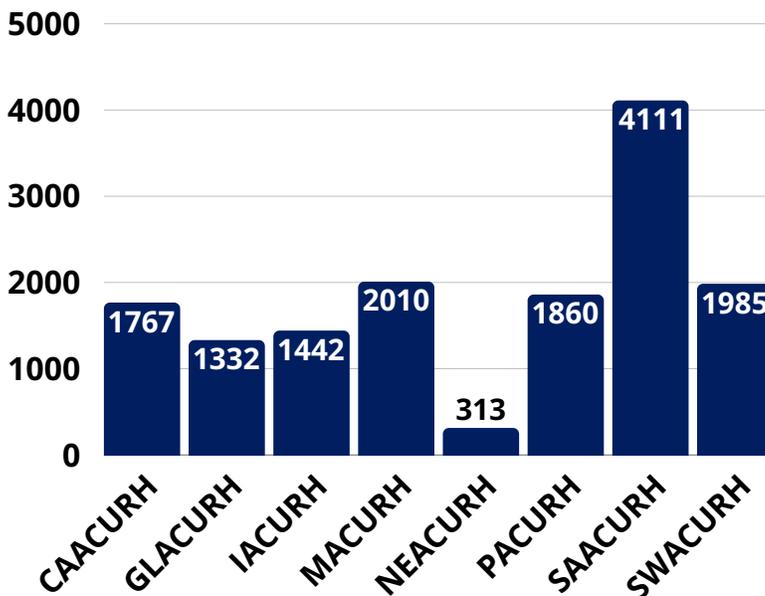
OTMs 23-24 & OTMs 24-25



THE OTM TRAVELING AWARD RETURNS!

After four years, the NACURH OTM Traveling Award has officially returned. This honor recognizes the institution with the most points from campus, regional, and NACURH-level OTM submissions over the affiliation year. With more than 14,000 OTMs submitted across NACURH, participation reached record highs. This year's top institutions include Indiana University Bloomington, University of Georgia, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Taking home the title with 1,150 points — congratulations to the University of California, San Diego, the 2025 OTM Traveling Award recipient!

Total OTMs 2024-2025



DR. NEIL POTTER CHAPTER CROWNED OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

NRHH leaders strengthen community impact, win NACURH NRHH recognition

A CHAPTER WITH PURPOSE

The Dr. Neil Potter NRHH Chapter at Northern Arizona University (NAU) has lived up to the values of service and recognition in ways that have reshaped its campus and community. Named for a beloved former Dean of Students, the chapter embodies a tradition of leadership that uplifts peers, strengthens campus connections, and reaches out to the greater Flagstaff community



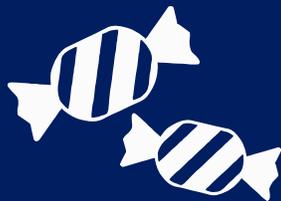
RESTRUCTURING FOR GROWTH

This year, the Dr. Neil Potter Chapter restructured its executive board to strengthen leadership and expand its reach. New positions focused on administration, recognition, and service created clear pathways for growth while a \$40,000 independent budget gave the chapter greater autonomy. These changes allowed the organization to host larger programs, deepen campus partnerships, and build a stronger presence across NAU.



321

service hours completed



356

**students attended
Haunted Harvest Festival**



96

OTMs submitted



168+

**registered for the
Color Dash 5K**

RECOGNITION IN ACTION

Recognition thrives at NAU, with members celebrated through birthday spotlights, Valentine's exchanges, and custodial staff appreciation programs. The chapter rebuilt its campus-level OTM Selection Committee, introduced a new OTM Bidding Party, and inspired members to submit 96 OTMs in one year—resulting in 26 campus winners and regional-level recognition.

SERVICE AT THE HEART

Service initiatives were both creative and community-centered. From adopt-a-highway clean-ups to partnerships with the Coconino Humane Association, Flagstaff Family Food Center, and Shelter Services, members dedicated over 321 hours of service this year. The chapter also brought service to campus through projects like bird feeders and Finals Goodie Bags, ensuring every member could give back in accessible ways.



“ I could go on for pages about the accomplishments of the Dr. Neil Potter chapter as their impact has truly made the campus a more inclusive, service-oriented, and welcoming space. ”



— Sammy Garrett, NRHH Advisor

REGIONAL & NACURH LEADERSHIP

The Dr. Neil Potter Chapter didn't stop at campus borders. Members led at the IACURH regional level, sitting on committees, presenting sessions, and winning multiple pins and awards. At the national level, members presented at NACURH conferences, participated in the PenPal program, and engaged in national service and recognition initiatives

SHINING BRIGHT LIKE DIAMONDS

Letters of support from advisors, campus leaders, and the regional board all highlight the same truth: the Dr. Neil Potter Chapter is a model of excellence and engagement. With creativity, heart, and a drive to make a difference, NAU's NRHH chapter demonstrates what it means to be an Outstanding Chapter of the Year

NRHC LAUNCHES: REIMAGINING THE CELEBRATION OF RESIDENCE HALL LIFE

Bringing back a beloved tradition of recognition, service, and community

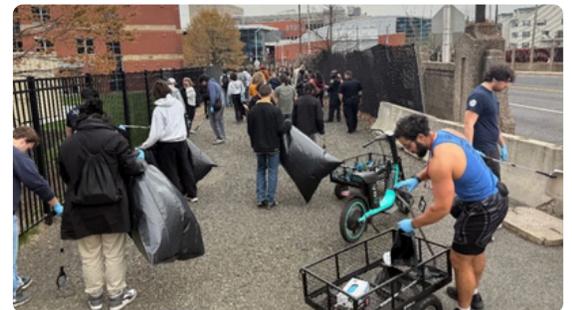
This year, NACURH proudly launched the inaugural National Residence Hall Celebration (NRHC) — a reimagined and revitalized version of National Residence Hall Month, brought back for the first time since 2019. The two week-long virtual celebration highlighted the spirit of residential leadership through themed days such as Small Service, Pin Day, Region Appreciation, Advisor Appreciation, Alumni Day, and Founders' Day. Each day encouraged campuses to engage in recognition, service, and community building.

NRHC also featured a virtual case study competition, inviting students to collaborate on innovative solutions to real-world challenges. By bringing this celebration back, NACURH continues to strengthen connection, appreciation, and pride across residence halls worldwide.



INNOVATION IN ACTION: THE NRHC CASE STUDY COMPETITION

As part of the inaugural National Residence Hall Celebration (NRHC), Florida State University earned top honors in the 2025 NRHC Case Study Competition, showcasing innovation and creativity in addressing chapter engagement through recognition and service. Their proposal emphasized peer-to-peer recognition, service spotlights, and a digital engagement tracker that gamified participation to keep members involved. The FSU team's approach highlighted collaboration, visibility, and sustainability as key factors in revitalizing NRHH participation. Their winning submission reflects FSU's deep commitment to leadership development and the spirit of recognition that defines NACURH and the National Residence Hall Honorary.



FUEL THE FUTURE: NACURH GIVING DAY IGNITES SUPPORT

Empowering student leadership through generosity and connection.

This spring, NACURH launched its first-ever Fuel the Future: NACURH Giving Day, a campaign uniting students, alumni, and advisors in support of student leadership development across residence halls. Held alongside National Residence Hall Celebration, the initiative invited participants to share their NACURH stories, donate online, and promote the cause through social media.

Together, the NACURH community raised \$680 toward a \$2,500 goal, supporting scholarships and leadership training. The success of this campaign demonstrates NACURH's continued dedication to empowering inclusive, connected, and civically engaged student leaders.



CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Aj Stewart
Bryna Walker

GREAT LAKES

Lucy Ade
Parrama Chouhan
Andres Lopez
Marti Wein

INTERMOUNTAIN

Danielle Duran
Brianna Nevarez
Claire Westby
Thomas Winters

MIDWEST

Casery Dworzynski
Carissa French
Jen Kacere
Triona Leach
Justin Luster

NORTHEAST

Fausta Fenner
Joe Maple
Karishma Trejo
Kiara Wisniewski



PACIFIC

Anthony Ching

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Abby McReynolds
Mark Mekaeil
Cooper Murray
Kaylie Singleton

ADVANCING NACURH

The commitment of those who continue to empower student leadership.

The NACURH Advancement Society celebrates the individuals whose dedication and generosity have strengthened NACURH's mission to empower residential student leaders. Established in 1982 and reimaged in 2016, the Society recognizes alumni, professionals, and friends who have supported the organization through leadership, service, and giving — ensuring NACURH continues to thrive and inspire future generations of student.

Those inducted to the NACURH Advancement Society this affiliation year can be found on the left.



HOLDING SPACE

Patrick Rosengrant, NACURH NRHH Advisor

“I’ve seen, this week, people taking the lyrics of *Defying Gravity* and holding space with that—and feeling power in it.”

– Tracey E. Gilchrist, 2024

If you’re anything like me and spend too much time online, you probably came across this quote last fall during the long press tour for *Wicked*. After Tracey said this, it sparked a bit of an online moment—but it also got me thinking: what does it mean to “hold space”? The answer depends on who you ask. For some, it’s a psychological buzzword that can feel vague or overused. For others, it’s something much simpler and more grounded—about being present, really present, with someone else.

I think of holding space as being fully there with someone. It’s about showing up in a way that lets the other person feel seen, heard, and supported—not as someone trying to fix their problems, but as someone willing to be with them in whatever they’re feeling.

In my work in Student Affairs, I’m constantly meeting people in all kinds of emotional places—from the high of achieving a massive goal to the low of feeling stuck, angry, or lost.

And honestly, our instinct when someone turns to us is to help fix things. We want to offer advice, jump into problem-solving mode, or come up with answers. That’s not a destructive instinct—it comes from a good place. But sometimes, what people need isn’t advice. They need us to hold space.

Now, some might say this is just basic communication—like, of course, we should listen and be empathetic. But holding space is more than just nodding along. It’s about letting the other person take the lead in the conversation, listening deeply, and paying attention to what’s said and what isn’t. It’s being mindful of your body language and tone. And even though this sounds simple, it can be surprisingly complex—especially with people we don’t always talk to. Without realizing it, we might come across as distant or distracted.



Another big part of holding space is pausing our judgments and assumptions. When someone opens up to us, they're taking a risk. Vulnerability is never easy. And everyone's story is more complicated than it may look on the surface. Our job isn't to label their experience as right or wrong or to decide what they should do next. It's just to be there, offering support without critique or conditions.

As I mentioned earlier, society trains us to want to fix things. That's what we're used to—whether it's from professional training or just being told that helping means finding a solution. But sometimes, not knowing what to say is okay. It can be one of the most powerful things you can admit. "I don't know what to say, but I'm here" can mean more than rushing to offer a fix or a feel-good phrase.

One last important piece: boundaries. Holding space doesn't mean absorbing someone else's emotions or taking on their struggles as your own. You can care deeply and still protect your energy. Setting boundaries helps you stay grounded, which allows you to be even more present. What that looks like will be different for everyone, and it's something only you can figure out for yourself—but it's important not to skip that part. Whether you're holding space for a friend, a family member, a coworker, or even that overworked barista having a rough morning, the heart of it is the same.



Everyone deserves the chance to be heard and seen and feel like they're not alone. And being the person who offers that? That's one of the most human and generous things we can do.

ADVISOR RETENTION & TRAINING: EMPOWERING ADVISORS

Building connection, confidence, and community among campus advisors.

This year, NACURH's Advisor Retention & Training (ART) program continued to expand its reach through meaningful education, mentorship, and connection. With updated modules, collaborative sessions, and a renewed focus on advisor development, ART fostered growth, confidence, and community — strengthening the foundation of advisor support across NACURH's campuses.

These 25 individuals completed the ART Basics Track during the 2024-2025 affiliation year.

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Sharai (Rai) Baltimore

GREAT LAKES

Ever Aroca

Nino Bradley

Tora Coleman

Travis Hill

Deborah Lehman

Josie Palitzsch

Taylor Schultz Wieringa

INTERMOUNTAIN

Madeline Azari

Lily Ballengee

NORTHEAST

Marcus D'Lorio

MIDWEST

Vanessa Attaya

Carissa French

Elizabeth Gier

Maya Le Rossignol

Justin Luster

Katelin Mathis

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Hailey Bryan

Luciana L. Hunt

Christina Knowlton

Keri Nguyen

SOUTHWEST

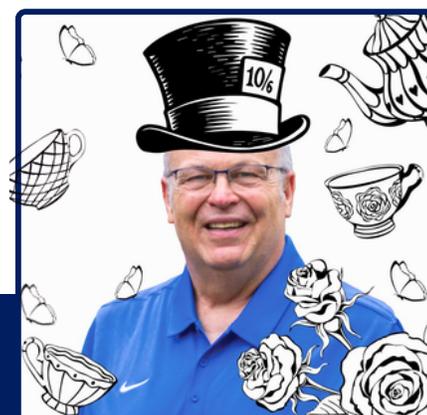
Ashtyn Davis

Beth Hunter

Baylee Moster

PACIFIC

Danielle Terrell



CELEBRATING MARK HUDSON'S NACURH LEGACY

Mark Hudson, from Eastern Illinois University, celebrated attending his 45th NACURH Annual Conference at Illinois State University. Recognized during the Pre-Conference Fireside Chat and Tea Party, Mark's decades of dedication exemplify the spirit of NACURH — connection, mentorship, and lifelong leadership. His continued involvement inspires generations of student leaders across the organization.



42

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transferred ART
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25

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