

**Alumni Awards Committee Report  
Sept. 18, 2021, Board Meeting**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, Chairperson Nelson-Brown met with Nikita Richards to discuss the committee and DEI compliance.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, Chairperson Nelson-Brown, Jamie Sennett, Lindsay Dean, Karyn Aguirre, and Rhona Israel met to discuss the Andrew Purnell Jr. award. It was suggested that we ask Julie Jones of the Board of Trustees to present this award to the inaugural winner in February 2022. We also discussed having a video depicting the life of Mr. Purnell and some of his many accomplishments.

The Alumni Awards Committee met on August 23, 2021, to discuss the goals and actions on the Awards Committee Strategic plan.

In attendance at the meeting were JD Schurter, Alice Spann, Lisa Castleman, Mary McMahan, Tisha Mills, Scott Preston, Dave Horstein and Susan Nelson-Brown. (Nikita Richards was absent.) The actions to accomplish the goals were outlined and all agreed with these actions.

The deadline for the submission of the Rubrics from each committee member is August 31, 2021. The results of all the rubric will be discussed at the next meeting on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

The 2021-2022 Awards Committee members are:

**Board Members:**

Susan Nelson-Brown – Chairman  
Lisa Castleman  
Mary McMahan  
Tisha Mills  
Alice Spann  
Scott Preston  
Nikita Richards  
J D Schurter  
Dave Horstein (Ex-officio)

Non-Board Members:

Mary Dellorto

**Board Development Committee Minutes**  
**August 23, 2021**

1. Board Member Exit Interview Recap (Dave)
  - a. Steve to share self-assessment for board members
  - b. Dave/Kris reported on exit interviews
  
2. Board of Director Selection
  - a. Rubric update to match new application
    - i. Committee to review outside meetings and come back with suggestions/feedback. Each committee member to give thoughts and Rachel/Steve review to update/edit current rubric.
  
  - b. Timeline review
    - i. Consider an earlier step in the process to ask current members for an interest statement to be put on slate for re-election
    - ii. Discussed the use of the board participation forms submitted quarterly
    - iii. Orientation of new members worked well this past year to have after annual meeting. Continue this and also look to have photographs taken after election instead of prior. Kris will continue to communicate to slate that they are not official until annual meeting vote but are happy to have the attend this meeting.
  
3. Board Leadership Recruitment
  - i. Steve will give an overview at the September board meeting on leadership on the board and encourage current board members to think about interest and send questions now to help the process.

**Alumni Association Homecoming Committee**  
**September 7, 2021**  
**Report**

Members – Stacy Ramsey, Liz Garcia, Mary McMahon, Joe McGuire, Danny Mielneczek, Alice Spann, Tim Griffin, Brent Scholl, Julia Durnell, Dave Horstein, Kathy Murdoch, Michele Newswander, Paige Hall, Lynda Lane, Angela Onuma, and Juliana Nelson

- 100<sup>th</sup> Homecoming is October 16<sup>th</sup> ☺
- Alumni Homecoming King & Queen Selection
  - We had several wonderful entries again this year.
  - Congrats to Lynda Lane our Homecoming Queen and to Carl Kasten our Homecoming King!
  - They will be crowned at the Alumni Day Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 15.
- Campus Decorating Contest Judging, Friday, Oct. 8
  - Judges will include a diverse set of people and include an ISU student.
    - Madeline – Alumni Engagement Student Intern
    - Stacy and 2-3 additional judges
  - We restructured awards for more 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place opportunities to encourage participation and increase morale. We eliminated the overall category and the single office vs. multi-office/building categories.
  - All first place in each category will get \$40 prize.
  - Winners will be announced on Oct. 12 via website and twitter.
    - Best ISU Spirit
    - Most Original Use of Homecoming Theme
    - Most Humorous
    - Best Use of Reggie
    - Best Newcomer
- Organize Parade Tossing Items
  - This will be done during the week prior to Homecoming.
  - Loading the van with supplies after Alumni Day Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 15.
- New Event for Regional Network Alumni Representatives and Board Members
  - Friday, Oct. 15 at Keg Grove Brewery from 4-6pm
  - New event was formed in collaboration with Susan Nelson Brown, JD Schurter and Lauren Hardy and supports our strategic planning initiatives.
  - A survey was sent out and 28-35 network leaders expressed interest in attending.
  - An outlook invite to the Homecoming Committee and Board members will be sent for attendance numbers.
- Multicultural Center
  - We wanted to encourage participation in tours during Homecoming if they were providing them. However, this is not planned at this time.
  - They are doing a ribbon cutting ceremony right after the Alumni Day Luncheon at 2:00 and we encourage everyone to attend.
- Tram Decorating and Parade
  - Saturday, Oct. 16 - 9:15am for tram decorating
  - A group picture will take place around 9:45 just prior to parade start.
  - Only Homecoming Committee members, Alumni Board, and past Board members to ride on tram (others can walk along).
  - We will invite Regional Network Leaders to walk with us this year.
  - Juliana or Stacy will send out the invite to past Board and Regional Reps.

- Teaser flyers or signs for tram will be created to encourage Alumni to visit the tent (free food).
- Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet distributed.
- Tent Decorating, Food, Entertainment, Etc.
  - Saturday, Oct. 16 – 8:00 – 9:00am
  - We are facing some challenges with staffing shortages, etc. with Dining and so we will be making a few adjustments, i.e. using quick-cover table covers.
  - New - Table tents (on 32 rounds) to get info out about scholarship with QR code to donate and King/Queen, Prince/Princess information. Getting out more information about these things supports our Strategic Planning initiatives.
  - Tables will be reserved for Half Century and Regional Reps.
  - Map of Tent Zone will be available.
  - WZND, trivia, and prizes will be a part of the tent activities.
- Tent Coverage
  - Greeters, Check-in, Etc.
    - iPads and Sheets will be used again for check-in.
    - Redbird Prime interest will be gathered at check-in instead of separately and then shared with that committee for outreach initiatives.
  - New - Board members will volunteer to visit tents of affinity groups to encourage participation, King/Queen/Prince/Princess, and knowledge of scholarship, again supporting our Strategic Planning initiatives.
  - Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet distributed.
- Tent Clean-Up and Help Getting Supplies Back to Alumni Center
  - Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet distributed.
- Post Homecoming email and survey will be sent again to get feedback and inform alumni of scholarship, involvement opportunities, awards, and King/Queen, Prince/Princess information.
- Strategic planning initiatives were incorporated but we are balancing new ideas and staff and other limitations. Therefore, not all our ideas will be implemented this year but will be phased in.
- All Homecoming events can be found at <https://homecoming.illinoisstate.edu/>.

**Illinois State University Alumni Association  
Scholarship Committee Meeting  
August 19, 2021 – 4:00p CT**

**Members Present:**

Karyn L. Aguirre; Tyler Clark; Joe McGuire; Matthew Rillie; JD Schurter; Dakota Pawlicki (chair); Dave Horstein (ex-officio); Beth Theobald (staff)

**Meeting Minutes:**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of Committee
  - a. Discussion of the primary focus of our committee – to promote, strengthen, and award the ISUAA Scholarship.
  - b. Review of activity over the past two years
    - i. Past committees have:
      1. Refined our review rubric
      2. Streamlined internal review processes
      3. Increased the number of scholarships we provide
3. Discussion: What might we focus on for this year?
  - a. Members discussed how we might expand our impact beyond “back office” and process streamlining
    - i. The system we have in place is working well, though some small improvements may help, including:
      1. Improving identifiers used during review to improve matching during the review process
        - a. Alumni Engagement staff are working on this
    - ii. Explore further data about the retention and success of scholarship recipients to inform what other supports could be offered to promote student success
      1. Members expressed a “responsibility for scholarship recipient success” and a desire to understand the trend data related to persistence and success.
      2. If students are not persisting, how might that shift our scholarships support?
  - b. Members discussed strategies to ensure 100% of committee members complete their review of applications.
    - i. In past years, the committee has struggled to get 100% participation among committee members to review applications
    - ii. All members blocked review times on their calendars
    - iii. Additional ideas to promote and support 100% participation include:
      1. Sharing scheduling blocks
      2. Holding group sessions
      3. Sending reminders via email
      4. Sending postcards, pins, and other markers of success
4. Discussion: How many applications should be reviewed this year?
  - a. The committee will review 200% of the potential awards
  - b. Alumni engagement and scholarship staff are clarifying language to focused on non-freshman candidates

- c. Alumni engagement will inform the committee as to how many returning scholars are eligible this year, thereby reducing our number of new scholarships
- 5. Strategic Plan
  - a. A preliminary conversation about prioritizing activities on the strategic plan included:
    - i. Engaging past scholarship recipients in ISUAA efforts
    - ii. Identifying specific goals to engage past recipients may include:
      - 1. Raising additional funds to the scholarship
      - 2. Raise awareness for the scholarship
      - 3. Highlight stories about the impact of the scholarship
    - iii. Adding specific metrics to some strategic plan elements
  - b. Dakota will send out a survey allowing members to rank strategic plan priorities prior to the next quarterly ISUAA meeting
- 6. Closing
  - a. Action items include:
    - i. Committee members block out review time for scholarship applications
    - ii. Dakota to send out strategic plan ranking survey
    - iii. Dakota to send out Doodle poll to schedule next meeting
    - iv. Dakota to work with Alumni Engagement staff to:
      - 1. Make request for scholarship allocation for upcoming year
      - 2. Explore availability of data to explore persistence and success trends
      - 3. Explore the identification of past recipients for continued engagement