

2012 Deacon Davis Award

Created in 2004, the purpose of this award is to recognize current NIU undergraduate, graduate, or professional students; faculty; supportive professional staff or civil service staff; and academic units, offices, programs or organizations for significant contributions made to the improvement of the status of minorities on the NIU campus.

About Deacon Davis

McKinley "Deacon" Davis was born in Freeport, Illinois on August 3, 1932. Davis was an All-Star basketball player throughout high school and college. In 1955, Davis graduated from the University of Iowa and became a member of the Harlem Globetrotters until 1957. While traveling around the country with the team, Davis studied the condition of American high schools. It was in these years, while continuing his education, that his vision developed for what would one day become the CHANCE (College Help & Assistance Necessary for College Education) Program.

In 1968, NIU President Rhoten Smith hired Davis as the Director of Special Programs and founder of the CHANCE Program. Davis stayed in that role until 1978 when he became the Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at NIU. Since 1968, the CHANCE Program has been a door of opportunity for many minority students to both enter and graduate from NIU. Deacon Davis helped to improve the status of minorities on the NIU campus. Davis passed away on March 20, 2003.

About the PCSM

The Presidential Commission on the Status Minorities is the oldest commission in existence on the NIU campus. The PCSM, being the first of its kind at NIU, served as an example and led the way in the development of other existing Presidential Commissions representing the rich diversity of NIU. The PCSM has always advocated for all minorities represented on campus and in the surrounding community and region. The Commission's influence on the work environment, climate, as well as the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff and students continue to be significant as the Commission strives to assist meeting its avowed goals of diversity and equal treatment for all.

Previous Award Recipients

A list of previous award recipients can be found on the Commission's website at www.niu.edu/pcsm.

Nomination Process

- Nominations are invited from current NIU undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; faculty, supportive professional staff and civil service staff; and academic units, offices, programs or organizations.
- Nominators should complete the nomination form about the nominee. Forms are also available on-line at www.niu.edu/pcsm. Nominators may also forward the necessary information via email or fax.
- Nominators will need to solicit one additional letter of support and submit it with the nomination form.
- Completed nominations will be reviewed by the PCSM. Nominators and nominees may be contacted by the Commission for additional information as needed.
- Current Commission members are not eligible for the award.

Deadline

Nominations must be received by March 14, 2012. The Deacon Davis Award is a non-monetary award. Awards will be bestowed upon the selected recipients during the Annual PCSM Spring Banquet on April 11, 2012.

**2012 Deacon Davis Diversity Award
Nomination Form**

Nominee:

Name of current undergraduate, graduate, professional student; faculty, supportive professional staff, civil service staff; or academic units, offices, programs or organizations:

Campus Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Nominator:

Name of the nominator: _____

Nominator department: _____

Nominator phone number: _____ Email: _____

*Additional letter of support submitted by: _____

Reasons for the nomination:

**Nominator must also solicit one additional letter of support and submit it with the nomination form.*

Send completed form to: Melody Mitchell, PCSM
NIU College of Law
DeKalb, IL 60115
Fax: (815) 753-4501
or Email information to: mmitchell@niu.edu

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