

## **Skookum Award Criteria and Stipulations**

In order to be considered for the Skookum Award, students must be in good academic standing and be a first semester senior in the fall of their senior year. The selection process begins with a call for nominees to all faculty and staff members. The nominated students who are qualified must complete an application and submit a resume with their GPA included.

A team of alumni and University administrators makes up the Credentialing Team who reviews the applications and ranks each one according to specific criteria. This ranking narrows the group down to thirty finalists. From there the Interview Team meets with each of the thirty finalists to learn more about each student. The nomination and interview process occurs in the spring semester of their junior year.

The interview Team uses criteria to narrow the group to the top fifteen winners. In addition, there are three levels of the Skookum Award: twelve Skookum award winners, two Royal Skookum awards and one Grand Skookum award winner. The Grand Skookum award is granted to the highest ranking candidate. The Royal Skookum awards go to the second and third highest ranking award winners.

At the Skookum Brunch held during Family and Friends Weekend in the fall of their senior year, each recipient receives a Skookum Rock, which is a miniature replica of the Western New England University Rock with his or her name engraved on the plaque and a certificate of achievement. Individual and group photos are taken of each recipient. The Royal and Grand Skookum winners also receive a monetary award from the Alumni Association.

Past Skookum award winners are part of this process from credential reviewers and interviewers, to presenters of the awards.

### **Benefits of becoming a Skookum Award recipient**

- The honor of being recognized by the Western New England University campus community and alumni as being one of the top fifteen students of your class to excel in academics, leadership and volunteerism.
- It is the highest honor given by the Alumni Association to the students of Western New England University.
- The opportunity to be asked to speak at the Presidents Dinner, Scholarship Reception and other annual alumni events as a well-respected representative of the student body.
- You will be invited to each subsequent Alumni Awards Dinners and recognized as a past Skookum Award recipient.
- The opportunity to become part of the Skookum Awards Team as well as a candidate to present future awards.