



Awards and Recognition

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Attending college offers students many opportunities to engage in activities beyond the classroom. When University of Akron graduates reminisce about their experiences, their involvement in the campus community and their ensuing personal growth are often mentioned above and beyond their classroom learning.

The list of clubs, organizations, and planned activities offered at The University of Akron would be far too long to cite here. However, there are three organizations which recognize and celebrate student achievement and that have been on the University's campus for decades. They are Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society (ODK), Mortar

Board, and the A-Key Award presented by Undergraduate Student Government (USG). What distinguishes these organizations is their long-standing tradition of honoring students who achieve at the highest levels in both academics and campus and community involvement.

Theta Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa was chartered by the national organization on April 29, 1922, making it the eighth oldest chapter of ODK. Mortar Board had its beginnings as Pierian in 1923 and was installed as a chapter of Mortar Board on April 24, 1964. When established, ODK was a men's organization; Mortar Board was for women. Both organizations are now co-ed.

Undergraduate Student Government (USG) was known as Associated Student Government (ASG) from the 1970s to approximately 2012. It serves as an advocate for the student body and sees as its mission assuming a responsibility to help ensure the success of other student organizations. To that end, the A-Key Award was established and presented annually to undergraduate students who meet its criteria regarding credit hours, GPA, and a high level of campus involvement. Presently, USG gives two awards: the A-Key Blue for demonstrated involvement and the A-Key Gold for distinguished and most active involvement.

The professional staff in the Department of Student Life—also known as Student Affairs and Student Support Services in years past—diligently supports all student organizations that provide meaningful experiences and

engagement opportunities for University of Akron students. The result is better prepared graduates and supportive alumni. Those students who are recognized by ODK, Mortar Board, or receive an A-Key Award realize that college is more than obtaining a degree. The experiences, engagement, and sense of accomplishment they feel from being involved in extra-curricular activities will last a lifetime. Hopefully the result will be corporate and community leaders who will continue to actively support organizations and institutions throughout their lives.