



# Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

Dr. Stacie NC Grant – International President and CEO  
Hon. Beverly S. Tatham – Atlantic Regional Director  
Lisa Simpson-Smith – Maryland State Director

Greetings Chapter Basilei and Auxiliary Presidents,

It is time again to ready yourselves for the 2026 Maryland State Leadership Conference Z-HOPE™ Awards and Recognition Program. Please read the enclosed carefully.

## **Z-HOPE™ RECOGNITION & AWARDS**

***Consideration Period: 07/01/24 - 06/30/25***

Z-HOPE™ recognition & awards are based on programs completed in the PRIOR sorority year. The following recognitions and awards will be available based on programming reported via the Zeta Service Management System (ZSMS):

### **SERVICE AWARDS**

These awards will be presented in the three categories to include pearl service award, sapphire service award, and/or silver service award for undergraduate chapters, graduate chapters, Amicae Auxiliaries, and Zeta Male Networks. Undergraduate chapters and graduate chapters will be awarded according to size categories. Amicae and Zeta Male Networks do not have size categories at this time.

### **MARYLAND STATE Z-EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

***Consideration Period: 07/01/24 - 06/30/25***

The Maryland State Z-Excellence Award will be presented in three categories: Social Justice, Health Justice, and Economic Justice. Undergraduate Chapters, Graduate Chapters, Amicae Auxiliaries and Zeta Male Networks are eligible to submit for consideration. The Z-Excellence Award will be based solely on the submitted chapter/auxiliary statement submission.

The Maryland State Z-Excellence Award is an opportunity to recognize chapters in the State of Maryland who have implemented extraordinary programming in their service area and beyond, enhanced their community in significant, visible, and noticeable ways, and have positively impacted the State of Maryland through time, talent, and finance.

To be considered for a Z-Excellence Award, Chapters, Auxiliaries, and Zeta Male Networks must submit a statement. Statements must include both visual and written information. It can be in the form of a word document, PDF, or slideshow, or other multimedia means. In all cases, statements must include the attached cover sheet to confirm demographics and the category you wish to be considered for. Each entry will only be considered for the category indicated on the cover sheet.

Statements should be creatively presented, typed in third person, and use both qualitative and quantitative information to demonstrate how the chapter/auxiliary has addressed each of the elements in the selected category. Be intentional. Take the necessary time to develop a substantial submission - one that you would be proud to share with any stakeholder!

The presentation of your chapter/auxiliary statement is just as important as the content within it. Consider how you will set yourself apart in a sea of submissions. Ensure the layout is professional and cohesive including consistent color scheme within the Zeta Identity Guidelines and include design elements that reflect your chapter/auxiliary's best work with visual appeal.

A well-organized statement allows reviewers to navigate through your work effortlessly, making it easier for them to appreciate each piece without distraction. In addition to visual consistency, consider how you present each project within the submission. Provide clear titles, descriptions, and context for each piece so that reviewers understand its significance within the larger narrative of your work. Chapters/auxilaries will be evaluated on presentation creativity. Include supporting documents such as thank you letters, press releases, testimonials, photos, etc.

**Please note:** Statements should not be a summary list of all the activities completed throughout the year across multiple categories. Each submission must clearly address a single selected category: Social Justice, Health Justice, or Economic Justice. Submissions that do not meet submission requirements will be voided. Take the time and avoid skeletal responses. Chapters, encourage and assist your sponsored Undergraduate Chapters and Auxiliaries with submitting a statement! This is your time!

### **Scored Elements aligned with the Power of S.H.E.**

Chapter Statements must minimally include:

- Cover Page
- Cover Sheet
- Acknowledgement of Founders and Leadership
- Table of Contents

and will be evaluated on the following elements:

- Commitment (50pts)
- Accomplishment (50pts)
- Impact (50pts)
- Creativity (25 pts)
- Overall Presentation/Grammar/Punctuation/Organization (25 pts)

### **What are examples of what DEMONSTRATE each element?**

#### ***Commitment***

- Multiple programs and or projects over a period of time
- Single program expanded over a period of time
- Going above and beyond
- Motivated others around the cause

#### ***Accomplishment***

- Collaborations
- Growth within the targeted area
- Depth of service/programming
- Recognitions/Accolades/Citations

#### ***Impact***

- Number of people impacted/served

Empowered participants and the community (thank you letters, photos, testimonials etc. are strongly encouraged to support)  
Generated positive change within your targeted area  
Incorporation of Get Engaged / Social Action components

**Submission:**

Submit to [Z-HOPE@zphibmaryland.org](mailto:Z-HOPE@zphibmaryland.org) no later than 11:59 pm on February 13, 2026.

***Please note:*** Wish to be considered for more than one category? You MUST submit one statement and cover sheet PER category! Although a Chapter or Auxiliary can be considered for more than one category, they can only be the recipient of one Z-Excellence Award for a given award year.

In Service,

Rachelle Adams, Maryland State Z-HOPE™ Co-Coordinator  
Eureka Thompkins, Maryland State Z-HOPE™ Co-Coordinator  
Tameka D. Barber, Maryland State Z-HOPE™ Committee Member  
Corisa C. Myers, Atlantic Region Z-HOPE Director / Maryland State Z-HOPE™ Committee Member