November 5, 2026

Greetings, Chapter Basilei and Auxiliary Presidents,

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

Z-HOPE™ RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Consideration Period: 07/01/25 - 06/30/26

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 three categories: **Pearl Service Award**, S**apphire Service Award**, and/or **Silver Service Award** for Undergraduate and Graduate chapters, Amicae Auxiliaries, and Zeta Male Networks. Undergraduate and Graduate chapters will be awarded by size category. Amicae and Zeta Male Networks do not have size categories at this time.

MARYLAND STATE Z-EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Consideration Period: 07/01/25 - 06/30/26

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

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.

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, slideshow, or other multimedia format. In all cases, statements must include the attached cover sheet to confirm demographics and the category you wish to be considered for. We will consider each entry only 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 addressed each element 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 stand out in a sea of submissions. Ensure the layout is professional and cohesive, including a 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 helps reviewers navigate your work effortlessly, making it easier to appreciate each piece without distraction. Beyond visual consistency, consider how you present each project in 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/auxilairies will be evaluated on presentation creativity. Include supporting documents such as thank you letters, press releases, testimonials, photos, etc.

NEW *In the Z-Excellence Awards Toolkit, included is a sample chapter submission with the desired elements for a successful submission. A Google link will be available to upload your submission.*

Note: Statements should not summarize all 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
- Acknowledgment of Founders and Leadership
- Table of Contents

and will be evaluated on the following elements:

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

WWW.ZPHIBMARYLAND.ORG
P.O. BOX 1484
OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117
ZPHIBMARYLAND
@ZPHIBMARYLAND

What examples 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)
- Generated positive change within your targeted area
- Incorporation of Get Engaged / Social Action components

Submission Links and Deadline: January 9, 2027 at 11:59 PM

Z-Excellence Awards Toolkit

Note: Chapters and Auxiliaries may submit entries in multiple award categories, provided a separate cover sheet and statement are submitted for each category. A Chapter or Auxiliary may be selected as the recipient of only one Z-Excellence Award per award year.

Questions:
Please contact us at Z-HOPE@zphibmaryland.org.

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

WWW.ZPHIBMARYLAND.ORG
P.O. BOX 1484
OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117
ZPHIBMARYLAND
@ZPHIBMARYLAND