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## NASSCED Newsletter APRIL

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NASSCED April Newsletter

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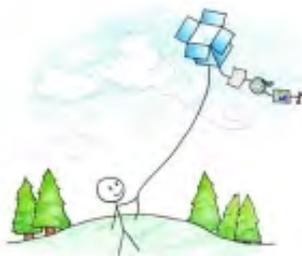


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### Upcoming Events:

- April 14-20, 2013, National Student Leadership Week: [Student Leaders Raising the Bar](#)
- June 22-24, 2013: NASC Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada
- June 22, 2013: NASSCED Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Dec 4-6, 2013: NASSCED Winter Meeting, Austin, Texas



Tech Tip: [Drop It To Me](#)

## Recognition

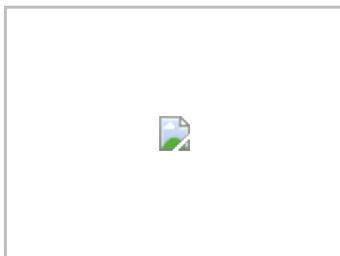
"The Value of Recognizing People, Concepts, and Accomplishments!"

It's a natural direction for student leadership organizations such as ours to recognize people, groups, and projects through awards. However, as leaders of those organizations know--it's not always the easiest thing to do, and it is CERTAINLY not the most "cut and dry" process that we run by any means.

At MASC/MAHS we have taken a few measures to make sure that we are accomplishing our organizational mission as well as keeping things on the "up and up" with our advisers. This is not to say that we aren't without our own awards and honor conflict--in fact, there's one that is wrapping up in our state as we speak. However, when you tie things to your mission, make sure to involve parties that ensure that favoritism is not shown, and make your process easily explained--it helps you to get to the TRUE meaning of recognition--to motivate our students and their programs to be the best that they can be. Below are a few tips that we use that may help your award programs find value.

Are you looking for a way to have your members to send you files electronically without filling up your email box or see your DropBox files?? Drop It To Me is the answer to your search!

- Go to [Drop It To Me](#) and Log in to your Dropbox account from there.
- The site will now direct you to set up your "Dropittome" account.
- You will set up a Password - how YOU log in and an UPLOAD PASSWORD that you will share with people to upload their files.
- Once you have this set up, share the link ( [www.dropitto.me/NASCginger](http://www.dropitto.me/NASCginger)) and upload password (silverstar) with your members.
- Members just click on the link, find the document they want to share by browsing their computer, then click "open" to Upload. (up to 75 MB)
- When you go to your DROPBOXACCOUNT and the document will be there in a file titled "Dropittome"
- People uploading do not have access to it once it has been uploaded and can't see any of your other files.



## Ginger Snaps:

2 cool songs for the end of the year

--Diversify your offerings--One thing I learned as a state director quite quickly is that if you TREAT it as an honor, others will begin to fall in and see it as one as well. While we offer more than 12 awards programs for students, advisers, administrators, organizations, schools, and projects, we also like to make sure that we take time to recognize those schools and individuals who have helped the group grow. We make sure to recognize those who have hosted events, we recognize those who have given to our state cause, and we even find a way to recognize schools who have gone above and beyond to attend and promote our events.

Last year, our [student] board wanted to continue to expand the recognition that students could apply for--but they knew our resources were almost tapped out as they were. At the time, we were only bestowing one "honor", to one student; the MASC/MAHS Student of the Year. While we changed our language to be able to recognize the top 12 finalists on stage, rather than just having them stand in place--we knew we wanted to be able to recognize a DIFFERENT set of students. The Unsung Hero Award was born, and within one board meeting, the criteria was in place enough to be able to promote and market the program for that year still. The premise was simple: EVERY school who was a member of MASC/MAHS could choose a student yearly who was their "unsung hero" defined however they wished. We gave some examples of who might BE their unsung hero, but each school is able to choose one, and that student does NOT have to be a member of a student council, honor society, or leadership class. We recognize the unsung heroes at our banquet asking them to stand if they are in attendance, and making a video of their submissions to show prior to the awards ceremony. The schools will receive the certificates after the conference, and be able to present them however they wish. While a new concept, we have grown our submissions by

"On Top Of The World" by \_IMAGINE

DRAGONS

Upbeat and catchy!

Here is a sample of the lyrics:

And I know it's hard when you're  
falling down  
And it's a long way up when you hit  
the ground  
Get up now, get up, get up now.

'Cause I'm on top of the world, 'ay  
I'm on top of the world, 'ay  
Waiting on this for a while now  
Paying my dues to the dirt  
I've been waiting to smile, 'ay  
Been holding it in for a while, 'ay  
Take it with me if I can  
Been dreaming of this since a child  
I'm on top of the world.

If This is It by Newton Faulkner

Mellow &amp; heartfelt.

Here is a sample of the lyrics:

No one move,  
No one speak,  
Please don't say that it's just me, it's  
not just me.  
And even though I won't forget,  
Just don't want this to end just yet,  
not just yet.

But if I had one chance to freeze  
time  
And stand still and soak in  
everything,  
I'd choose right now.  
If I had one night where sunshine  
could break through  
and show you everything,  
I'd choose right now.

double each year, as people enjoy being able to bestow an award to a student JUST for being a member.

--Ask yourself, "who is making the decision?"--In our association, the awards decision has been a debated one for many years. Who makes the call on the "big three" (student, adviser, and principal of the year), who is in the room when we grade the Award of Excellence, who gets a say in future charity projects...and the list goes on. A few years back, our bylaws changed to a rather large representative student advisory board made up of students from all across the state, involved in the three largest organizations--student government, honor society, and leadership class. When we made this transition, it was evident that our student involvement began to be VERY strong. Our awards processes began at that point to be completely student-driven, with those who advise the board, or assist in advising the board making sure that the processes used are appropriate and meaningful. In fact, they make their decision, vote via secret ballot--and the winner is announced to everyone at the state conference. When the students are in the driver's seat, the mission of our organization, it is very easy to eliminate politics of popularity and entitlement.

We also began to ask for more information rather than just "how long" and "what have you done". Each year, there are prompts for the applicant and their nominators to answer, such as "how do you know that this person believes that student activities are a strong influence in student's lives?". The responses returned not only become amazing content for our association, but also help the students in making a decision in choosing a student, principal, and adviser that represents THEM and THEIR mission, rather than just being the familiar face.



## NASC Awards

Are you taking advantage of these awards from the [National Association of Student Councils](#)?

National Council of Excellence:  
Runs the calendar year (Jan – Dec) and applications are due in February. The application looks daunting, but it is really not difficult and requires things your councils are probably already doing, so they may as well get some recognition for it!

Dale Hawley Award: recognize up to 5 students for their outstanding contributions at the State level. Certificates are free and how nice it is for your students to know they are 1 of just 250 students nation-wide to receive the recognition!

Warren E. Shull: Each state association may submit 1 high school and 1 middle school adviser for this prestigious award – so why would you not!? (In Nevada we don't announce our "of the year" awards until April, so that gives them a long time to work on the application that is due in early December.) Longevity Certificates: NASC provides certificates for those marking their 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> years. (In NV we also make certificates for those at 5 and 10 years as an adviser with 15 years is hard to come by these days!)

I was talking about this idea with some other association professionals recently at a training, and the suggestion came that in other industries states "trade" award applications. Seeing the mission of NASSCED is to support one another in our missions, and knowing that technologically this is becoming even easier to do, I saw this as a possibility for the future--albeit one that would need quite a bit of work in front of it.

--Presentation is Key!--Our awards banquet used to have the reputation of being the longest, and most "dragging" part of the entire conference. Giving ownership to my student board, and making a few tweaks in being prepared--we have been able to ENHANCE the experience for everyone. With our largest awards with multiple schools receiving them, we line up representatives prior TO the banquet beginning, so that the stage can stay running smoothly. We work off of a master script, and ALL school pronunciations are drilled if they must say them. They enjoy being able to leave their own mark on the presentation, and with members of my volunteer staff and myself on stage to supervise--all four of my executive officers take turns presenting plaques and certificates, as well as shaking hands for photo opportunities.

I could ramble for hours about this, the good to great--the bad to ugly. But, I'm hoping that maybe a few points on our perspective may help someone in our membership out a bit. I will leave this year's applications up for a little bit in case you want to see the full offerings of our award processes. Check them out at [www.mascmahs.org/awards](http://www.mascmahs.org/awards)<<http://www.mascmahs.org/awards>>.

All my best to my colleagues in April!

Todd Burlingham,  
Michigan



Sharing the history of your organization is a great way to recognize & honor your success. On our website and in the program for the Nevada State Conference, we list the history of our major awards and the hosts/themes of our conferences. This idea was inspired by the CADA conference in California, where they hang huge banners listing the names of past presidents and award winners.

What are you doing to honor your past?



## Guest Author

The Hasta Barista Approach to Recognition  
by Bob Tryanski

One of the great things about living in my tiny, crunchy, college town is the charming character of the locally owned businesses. Lawrence, Kansas has a Starbucks just like every other town in America, but we are also the home of a hip little coffee shop called Z's Divine Espresso.

Whenever I have the chance, that's where I go for my java.

Z's has become my second office. I like to work there because I get more done there. The coffee is also insanely great, but the most appealing aspect of Z's is the atmosphere. The owner and staff have created a culture that's electric, hip, and fun to be around. Z's doesn't have employees; it has "baristas". Baristas are artists; baristas are passionate about java; baristas make a trip to Z's worth the extra effort (and cost!). But baristas are also underpaid; they are underappreciated, and they are frequently the target of petty complaints and stress over stupid stuff like the temperature or fat content of the steamed milk. In other words, baristas a lot like teachers; there's a lot we can learn from them. I've never met anyone who isn't yearning to work in a more appreciative, supportive, and collaborative environment. Everyone wants colleagues who do great work and who are fun to be around. Unfortunately, that type of work environment doesn't emerge organically; it has to be cultivated. At Z's, the baristas have taught me that the process is a lot like brewing a great cup of coffee. The secret is how the beans are grown, ground, roasted, and brewed. What about the beans in our buildings?

If you want to improve school climate, change the students. If you want to improve school culture, you have to change your colleagues. What would happen if you reallocated just 10% of the time you spend bringing out the best in your

students and re-focused that time bringing out the best in your colleagues? Help them to spend more time focused on the perks than the daily grind and find ways to make the daily grind more fun.

I think we think about "recognition" too narrowly.

Recognition programs in schools tend to come in two basic types- award contests that single out one outstanding person while leaving the others behind and routine annual events, like banquets, where the program goes on for too long, the food (usually industrial strength lasagna or a stuffed chicken breast) is mediocre at best, and the elegance that you wish you could provide is always out of reach because the banquet budget gets reduced every year. Our colleagues deserve better.

Recognition should happen all the time. It's all about paying attention. When you notice someone doing something great, lift that person up in a way that makes others aware of their gifts and contributions, and dare to do it in a uniquely personal way.

When I was in college I had this amazing Constitutional Law professor, Mike Sawyer, who taught and served the Syracuse University community for more than 45 years. Mike was as brilliant as he was witty. He was riveting as a teacher, beloved by students, and admired by his colleagues. When Mike retired, the Maxwell faculty didn't give him a gold watch or a pen and pencil set or a gift certificate to a fancy restaurant for his last supper. Instead, they created a special reception featuring decadent desserts (Mike had a real sweet tooth), and they presented him with a one of a kind retirement plaque. They removed the handles from the front doors of the Maxwell School, mounted them on a beautifully carved piece of wood, and added an inscription plate that simply read "To Mike Sawyer

for half a century of service to Syracuse University. You will always be a part of the place."

Sometimes I hesitate to share lists of "things you can do" because the danger is that people will just lift an idea from the list and knock the life out of it in the process. But what would happen if the science department faculty joined together to throw a "Wrap Party" for the teachers who produce the spring musical every year? The orchestra director, drama teacher and choral director are always involved; someone plays the role of choreographer; the woodshop teacher builds and paints sets... It seems to me that the rest of the faculty ought to take just a minute to pause, raise their coffee mugs, and say "Hasta Barista, Baby!" Like your work!

Don't be afraid to model appreciation for others just because nobody has modeled it for you. We tell our students to act like Gandhi and "be the change they wish to see in the world." Why shouldn't we do the same?

<http://www.bobtryanski.com/HastaBarista/>

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Coming next month - National Conference Preview

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