

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 76)

28 September 2020

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY

1. Purpose: The purpose of this order is to outline procedures for the approval and administration of annual awards given to cadets and selected faculty at the end of the academic year. This order also addresses VMI awards given on certain occasions to persons outside of VMI.
2. Background: Each year VMI hosts on 14 May an Institute Awards Program. This program recognizes selected cadets for academic, military, and athletic achievement. Additionally, selected faculty and staff members are recognized at this ceremony with awards. This is an event with a great degree of decorum and is attended by the Corps of Cadets along with faculty/staff. In addition to those awards given at this ceremony, there are other award recognition programs, primarily for cadets, which take place at the end of the academic year. These ceremonies are conducted at the department or other levels. Examples include the Commandant's Awards, individual sport team awards, and academic department awards. Finally, on occasion, some organizations at VMI may recognize selected individuals, including some who are outside the VMI community.
3. Administration: Administrative oversight of the Institute Awards Program resides with the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty. Administrative oversight of department and other awards below the Institute level rests with the heads of those individual units.
4. Institute Awards: The purpose of the annual 14 May ceremony is to recognize those cadets and faculty/staff with awards that represent exemplary levels of achievement and service. Awards given at that ceremony are approved by the Superintendent. In order to ensure that those awards remain significant and time constraints can be met, the following guidelines apply.
 - A. Awards are intended to recognize a cadet or employee for a high level of achievement in a particular area. The purpose for an award should not be to simply recognize a specific donor, individual, alumnus/alumna, or class.
 - B. The criteria for each approved award should be distinct from other awards.
 - C. Awards that include a stipend or other monetary prize carry with them special responsibilities for the donors. It will be the responsibility of each proponent-donor to ensure that the specified award amount is provided each year. Such donors normally work with the VMI Foundation to establish and maintain the funding mechanisms. For non-monetary awards, such as plaques and statuettes, it is the responsibility of the award proponent to provide these to the Office of the Dean each year, according to a specified timeline.

In the interest of balance and emphasis, as new awards are approved, VMI retains the right to direct that awards previously given at the Institute Awards ceremony be given at a department or other level.

- D. VMI retains the right not to present a particular award in a given year.
5. Procedures for Proposing New Institute Awards: In addition to the directives contained above, proponents of a new award must abide by the following procedures.
- A. All requests must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Dean. The Dean will forward the proposal to the Superintendent with a recommendation regarding approval. The Superintendent's decision is final.
- B. Each request must fully delineate the following items
- i. Criteria – Established award criteria must be clear, concise, and collectively different from other awards. The attachment to this order contains a current list of awards along with their criteria.
 - ii. Name and Purpose – Each award must be appropriately named and a detailed purpose for the award must be provided. This will be the “source” document for an award that may be given for many years. Accordingly, the purpose and history behind a particular award is important to record.
 - iii. Selection Criteria –The proposal must describe in detail a reasonable, fair process for selecting award recipients, including selection committee membership and criteria for reviewing candidates. VMI retains the right to modify a proposed selection process at any time.
 - iv. Administration – Address issues affecting continuity, including responsible parties for providing material or monetary components of the award. It will be important to provide assurance that the award can be sustained in perpetuity. Provide an immediate point of contact for the award.
6. VMI Awards outside the Institute Awards Program: Authority to approve and administer Department-level or other unit awards to cadets or employees rests normally with the Department or program head, unless otherwise specified. It will be the responsibility of the head to ensure that all such awards are in good taste and are presented in a setting appropriate for recognition by a unit of the Virginia Military Institute.
7. Awards Given to Non-VMI Personnel: Some Institute, VMI Foundation, Board of Visitors, and other awards are given to distinguished alumni and non-alumni.

Additionally, some academic and other departmental awards are given to persons external to VMI. As these awards are intended to reflect the values of VMI, they are rightly considered “VMI awards.” In all such instances, the Superintendent must be notified in advance when an award of this kind is planned. The Superintendent must approve such an award before it is bestowed.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

James P. Inman
Colonel, US Army (Ret.)
Chief of Staff

OPR: Office of the Dean

Award	Responsible party	Criteria for the award
Big South Christenberry Award	ATHLETICS	For academic excellence - to one male student and one female (in the 8 Big South member schools) who attain the highest grade point average during the college career
Intercollegiate Sports Awards (3 Awards Presented)	ATHLETICS	Presented for all-around excellence in intercollegiate sports
Lieutenant General Edward Mallory Almond '15 Award (up to 2 Awards Presented)	ATHLETICS	Given to a graduating cadet for academic, athletic, and military excellence
The Nathaniel W. Pendleton 1922 Distinguished Coaching Award	ATHLETICS/ Athletic Council Committee Chair	Established by Mr. Nathaniel W. Pendleton, Jr. '57 in memory of his father, Nathaniel Willis Pendleton 1922, this award recognizes and encourages excellence in athletic coaching at VMI
General Withers A. Burrell Marksmanship Awards (Up to 2 Awards Presented)	ATHLETICS/ COMMANDANT	Given for superior performance on the Men's and Women's Rifle Teams
Alan D'Andelot Belin Memorial Prize	COMMANDANT	Given to a 4th class cadet who has earned the respect of their Brother Rats and the Corps of Cadets by performance within the rat system
Charles H. Dayhuff, Jr. '31 First Captain Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to the rising First Captain in the Corps of Cadets
Charles R. Martin '55 Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a graduate accepting a regular commission who has demonstrated excellence in military studies and outstanding leadership in the Corps of Cadets
CMDR H.M. Mason Military Proficiency	COMMANDANT	Presented to a graduating cadet selected as the most military proficient
Earl L. Valentine, Jr. Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a graduating cadet who has excelled in leadership in the Corps of Cadets
General Douglas MacArthur Cadet Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to a 1st Class cadet who emulates and practices the qualities exemplified by Douglas MacArthur and has demonstrated the most soldierly performance by a 1 st class cadet considering academics, athletics, and leadership
John Ryd Bush Award	COMMANDANT	Presented to the 4th class cadet deemed most worthy for valiant character & military proficiency

Francis H. Smith Award	CHIEF OF STAFF	Presented to a rising 1st Class cadet who has exhibited outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular participation, leadership ability, and demonstrated potential for a professional career
Marshall Citizen-Soldier Award <i>(Given every other year)</i>	CHIEF OF STAFF/Marshall Foundation	Given to the cadet whose career as a cadet has most closely paralleled that of GEN George C. Marshall, Class of 1901.
First Jackson-Hope Medal Award	DEAN	Presented at the May Commencement Ceremony to a member of the graduating class for highest attainment in scholarship. The medal is accompanied by a cash prize, the Commander Harry Millard Mason Academic Proficiency Award.
Second Jackson-Hope Medal Award	DEAN	Presented at the May Commencement Ceremony to a member of the graduating class for second highest attainment in scholarship. The medal is accompanied by a cash prize, the Colonel Sterling Murray Heflin 1916 Academic Proficiency Award.
The Society of the Cincinnati Medal Award	DEAN: Academic Board	Presented at the May Commencement Ceremony to a member of the graduating class for distinguished efficiency of service and excellence of character while at VMI. The medal is accompanied by two cash prizes, the Richard J. Marshall Award and the Sumter L. Lowry Award
The Colonel Daniel T. Ingram 1921 - Castle Heights Military Academy Award	DEAN: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	Award presented to a graduating cadet who is planning a career as a teacher and who demonstrates the high values reflected in Colonel Ingram's life.
The Dr. D. Rae Carpenter Award	DEAN: Faculty Development Committee Chair	The VMI Research Laboratories established the Carpenter Award to honor Dr. D. Rae Carpenter's service to the VMIRL. The award is given to the best research proposal that is submitted to the VMI Research Committee
The Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work Science & Engineering	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	These awards were established to recognize two members of the faculty each year for the outstanding publication in Science/Engineering and the outstanding publication in Humanities/Social Sciences.
The Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work Humanities & Social Sciences	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	These awards were established to recognize two members of the faculty each year for the outstanding publication in Science/Engineering and the outstanding publication in Humanities/Social Sciences
The Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Academic Advancement	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Awarded to a member of the faculty or academic program staff whose efforts bring renown to the Institute and its programs

The Jackson-Hope VMIRL Matthew Fontaine Maury Prize for Excellence in Research	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Presented to a member of the faculty for excellence in stimulating, furthering, or performing research by a demonstrated consistent commitment to scholarly work over time
The Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., '26 Research Award: Arts & Humanities	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., '26 Research Award: Engineering	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., '26 Research Award: Natural Science & Mathematics	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
The Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., '26 Research Award: Social Science	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Named for the first president of the VMI Research Laboratories, the Hinman Award was created by the directors of the VMIRL to recognize superior achievement by cadets in the performance of research and to recognize faculty sponsors' efforts to encourage cadet participation in such research
COL Herbert Nash Dillard '34 Award	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Presented to a member of the graduating class best emulating COL Dillard's scholarship and dedication to a broad liberal arts education
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Arts & Humanities	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Natural Sciences & Mathematics	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets

Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Engineering	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
Faculty Scholarships for Merit: Life Sciences	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Established in 1982, the Faculty Scholarships for Merit are funded from contributions made exclusively by active and retired members of the VMI faculty, and administered by the VMI Foundation, Inc. The awards recognize superior academic performance by rising 1st Class or 2nd Class cadets
The Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	Initiated by the Robert Earl McConnell Foundation in 1984, the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award is intended as a tribute to teachers who profoundly influenced and encouraged Jefferson during his own college years. The award is presented annually to a member of the VMI faculty who is beginning a career in academics and who is deemed especially talented at inspiring students in the development of their intellect and character
The VMI Distinguished Service Award <i>(Up to 3 Awards Presented)</i>	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	The VMI Distinguished Service Awards recognize and encourage excellence and dedication in service to the Virginia Military Institute. The program was endowed by the VMI Foundation, Inc., in 1980 through the VMI Campaign, with an inaugural matching gift from Robert G. Cabell, III and the Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation
The VMI Distinguished Teaching Award <i>(Up to 3 Awards Presented)</i>	DEAN: Institute Awards Committee Chair	The VMI Distinguished Teaching Awards recognize outstanding teaching and academic mentorship by members of the Virginia Military Institute faculty. The program was endowed by the VMI Foundation, Inc., in 1980 through the VMI Campaign, with an inaugural matching gift from Robert G. Cabell, III and the Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation
Institute Honors Thesis Award: Engineering & Science	DEAN: Institute Director of Writing	Awarded by the Institute Writing Program to the graduating cadets who present the most outstanding theses in satisfaction of their requirements for the Institute Honors Program.
Institute Honors Thesis Award: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	DEAN: Institute Director of Writing	Awarded by the Institute Writing Program to the graduating cadets who present the most outstanding theses in satisfaction of their requirements for the Institute Honors Program.

VMI Institute Professorships (<i>Number Varies</i>)	DEAN: Professorship and Chairs Selection Committee Chair	Recognizes outstanding accomplishments by those members of the VMI faculty whose achievements in the classroom, in curriculum and course development, in published scholarly research, and in service to the Institute and the community set them apart from their colleagues
Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury Award	Dept: AM	Presented to first standing graduate in the mathematics curriculum
Alfred H. Knowles Award (First Class)	Dept: BI	Presented to a 1st Classman for significant accomplishments in biology studies
Civil Engineering Award	Dept: CE	Presented to graduating 1st classman who is declared to be 1st in CE standing for all four years
The Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr '43 Award in Chemistry	Dept: CH	Presented to the top standing chemistry major
The John W. and Jane M. Roberts Award	Dept: ECBU	Established in honor of John W. and Jane M. Roberts to recognize their lifelong interest in the American free enterprise system and their support for the Department of Economics and Business, this medal recognizes outstanding performance by an economics and business major in the graduating class
Stewart W. Anderson '08 Memorial Award	Dept: ECE	Presented for superior academic performance in the electrical engineering curriculum
Asa S. Dearing Award	Dept: ERHS	Awarded to a graduating EN/FA major who has demonstrated the highest proficiency in the study of English and English Literature
United Daughters of the Confederacy: Sir Moses Ezekiel Award	Dept: ERHS/UDC	Given to a cadet who has contributed to the cultural life of the Institute.
International Studies Award	Dept: IS	Presented to the graduating international studies major who best exemplifies integrity, scholarship, and an abiding curiosity of international affairs
Superintendent William H Milton, Jr. Class of 1920 Award	Dept: ME	Presented to the 1st standing graduate in ME
Adolpho Ponzanelli Award	Dept: MLC	Presented for excellence in the study of modern languages to a cadet in the graduating class
United Daughters of the Confederacy: Stonewall Jackson Award	Dept: PY/UDC	Given to First standing graduate in Physics curriculum.
Jeff Shaara Scholar-in-Residence Award	MUSEUM	Given for the best research topic proposal working with interpretive staff at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park

100th Infantry Division Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress Scholarship Fund Awards: Rising 1st Class Cadets (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - A	Presented on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and military proficiency in honor of the men of the 100th infantry Division and their commander, LTG Withers A. Burress, 1914.
100 Infantry Division Lieutenant General Withers A. Burress Scholarship Fund Awards: Rising 2nd Class Cadets (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - A	Presented on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and military proficiency in honor of the men of the 100th infantry Division and their commander, LTG Withers A. Burress, 1914.
Caroline Gauss Tait Award	ROTC - A	Awarded to a female first class cadet who will be commissioning
Colonel Thomas St. John Arnold Award	ROTC - A	Given to an outstanding graduating 1st class private accepting an active duty commission in the US Army
Major General Stephen Sewell, Jr. '60 Award	ROTC - A	Awarded to a 3 or 4 Year ROTC Scholarship recipient, in high standing with both VMI and the Army ROTC Dept. (Usually given to a 3rd or 4th classman).
The Lieutenant John H. Lattin '66 Award	ROTC - A	Presented to the most militarily distinguished 1st Class cadet who is a commissioning infantry officer in the United States Army
Brigadier General Alonzo J. Walter '49B Award	ROTC - AF	Presented to the most outstanding Air Force ROTC Cadet in the graduating class.
Chesty Puller Award, First Marine Division	ROTC - N	Presented to the commissioning 1st Class Marine Option who exhibits the highest qualities of leadership which exemplify the VMI Spirit and those espoused by LTG Lewis B "Chesty" Puller, Class of 1921.
General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. Sixth Marine Division Awards (2 Awards Presented)	ROTC - N	Presented to the top two Marine graduates in the Naval ROTC program at VMI
Lieutenant Mark R. Wilson, Sr. Midshipman Award	ROTC - N	Presented to outstanding 1st Class NROTC midshipman.
The Chief of Naval Operations Distinguished Midshipman Graduate Award Class of 1964 New Market Legacy Award	ROTC - N DEAN - Graduating Class Faculty Advisor	Presented to a cadet commissioning with the Navy who has demonstrated the highest academic excellence The Cadet New Market Legacy Award is presented to a first class cadet whose cadetship in the opinion of his or her Brother Rats is most reflective of the character, honor and spirit of the 1864 New Market Corps of Cadets

Bruce C. Gottwald, Jr. '81 Award	Dept: PS	Presented to the graduating Psychology major who has demonstrated the highest achievement in Scholarship, Service, and Scientific Inquiry.
Lieutenant Randolph T. Townsend Award	Dept: HI	Presented to the first-standing graduate in the history curriculum