



2015-16 AY | PATHWAY RETENTION AWARDS

AWARD. The Pathway Retention Award was established by The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity to promote the retention of diverse students attending Old Dominion University (ODU). During early award cycle distribution, ten recipients were selected from one academic college annually. Beginning fall semester, 2014, the award expanded to include all eligible undergraduate students.

Recognizing the value that students from diverse backgrounds bring to the university, including racial and ethnic backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education, this award aims to provide financial assistance to students who excel academically. Moreover, this award is meant to identify talented students who have knowledge and experience in diverse areas or backgrounds and are prepared to use this knowledge to advance the ODU campus community towards inclusive excellence.

DISTRIBUTION. Award recipients receive a *Block 160 Meal Plan*, which consist of 160 meals per semester and \$350.00 of flex points. Flex points are an extension of the on-campus dining meal plan and are accepted only in select on-campus retail food service establishments (*i.e., Chick-Fil-A, ODU Food Court, Starbucks, Subway*). In addition, award recipients receive an ODU Bookstore Scholarship valued at \$250.00 each semester. The sum total of the award, valued at over \$3,500.00 annually, will enable recipients to focus on achieving academic excellence.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Award recipients are expected to serve as a secret shopper for Auxiliary Services during fall semester, submit survey results to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity *and* attend two award ceremonies. Award recipients must attend an acceptance ceremony and end-of-the-year awards ceremony hosted by The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity and Auxiliary Services, respectively.

CONTACT

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ELIGIBILITY

Essay submissions are reviewed and ranked by a selection committee, who recommends award distribution to ten students. All students who receive The Pathway Retention Award administered by The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity must:

- Be a member of an underrepresented group, which includes but is not limited to:
 - documented learning disability
 - first-generation student
 - native language is not English
 - nontraditional student (*e.g., age*)
 - racial/ethnic minority
 - single parent
 - works full-time while attending ODU
- Maintain full-time enrollment
- Maintain good academic standing with a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Undergraduate student (*e.g., rising sophomore or above*)

One page essay submissions are due by February 27th to officeofinstitutionalequitydiversity@odu.edu with a subject line that reads, "PRA Application." Award recipients will be notified by March 30th.