

The 2026 EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS

The Equity & Social Justice Awards recognize three undergraduate students from across academic disciplines, who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to social change and fostering a culture of inclusivity. The Equity & Social Justice Awards are comprised of three awards, including:

- **The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award:** Awarded to a courageous and vocal advocate for justice and committed to civil rights and inclusion efforts on campus and in the local community.
- **The Ella T. Grasso Award:** Awarded to a courageous and vocal advocate for justice and committed to civil rights and inclusion efforts on campus and in the local community.
- **The César Chávez Award:** Awarded to a compassionate leader who fosters empathy, accountability, and collective action in pursuit of social change across campus and beyond

What do award recipients receive?

Award recipients will receive a financial award of \$300 and be honored at the Equity & Social Justice Reception to be held on Friday, February 20th, 2026 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the FAIC Lobby.

Criteria for Eligibility:

Applicants must have a minimum of 48 credit hours completed at Eastern Connecticut State University and a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher.

How to Apply:

Applicants must submit one application form, two reference forms, a resume, an unofficial transcript, an essay response, and any supporting materials by February 2nd. All application materials, apart from the reference forms, should be combined as a single .pdf document and emailed to dos@easternct.edu.

References:

Applicants are responsible for providing their references with the reference form found at <https://www.easternct.edu/dos/equity-social-justice-awards>. Once completed the reference person will be responsible for emailing the completed form directly to dos@easternct.edu. References should be individuals who are familiar with your change-orientated and/or advocacy work (may not be a friend or family member).

Award Submission Deadline:

Completed application packages must be submitted electronically as a single .pdf document by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026** to dos@easternct.edu

Please see page 2 for Application Form ->

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Award Applicant's General Information:

Name:	Pronouns:
Email Address:	Number of credit hours to date completed at Eastern:
Major(s)	Cumulative G.P.A.:
Name of Reference 1:	Name of Reference 2:

AWARD SELECTION: Please select the award(s) you are applying for (may check more than one if applicable):

- The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award:** Awarded to an outspoken advocate for justice and committed to civil rights and inclusion efforts on campus and in the local community.
- The Ella T. Grasso Award:** Awarded to a trailblazer who drives impactful systemic change, while empowering others to actively contribute to positive transformation on campus and within the local community.
- The César Chávez Award:** Awarded to an influential leader creating empathy and accountability for social change on campus and within the local community.

SUBMISSION: Below is a checklist of all the application materials that are required for submission by Monday, February 2, 2026.

- Completed Application Form
- Resume
- Unofficial Transcript
- Essay Response: In a 250-400 word essay please share your overall contribution to the campus and local community. Share examples of programs and initiatives that you lead and/or were a part of that reflect the spirit of the Equity & Social Justice Awards. Include evidence of social responsibility as it relates to leadership roles, community and service engagement.
- Other supporting materials may be included as part of the application package.
- Two References- Applicants are responsible for providing their references with the reference form found at. Once completed the reference person will be responsible for emailing the completed form directly to dos@easternct.edu. References should be individuals who are familiar with your change-orientated and/or advocacy work (may not be a friend or family member).