

## **ACJS National Criminal Justice Month Awards**

Deadline: September 1, 2026

Nominations sent to Committee Chair: Vesna Markovic, [vmarkovic@lewisu.edu](mailto:vmarkovic@lewisu.edu)

Copy nomination to: Kimberly Dodson, [DodsonK@UHCL.edu](mailto:DodsonK@UHCL.edu)

**The intent of the National Criminal Justice Month Awards are to recognize academic departments, schools, colleges, and/or universities for National Criminal Justice Month celebrations that focus on education and/or community engagement.**

There are three separate awards that could be given in the same year: the Education Award, the Community Engagement Award, and the Program of the Year Award. For more information on National Criminal Justice Month please visit: <https://www.acjs.org/national-cj-month/>.

### **Education Award**

The intent of this award is to recognize a National Criminal Justice Month event for the educational impact on students and the community. Applications will be assessed on the relevancy and quality of the event, as well as the impact of the event (e.g., number of people in attendance). One department could be selected as the recipient of this award.

### **Community Engagement Award**

The intent of this award is to recognize a National Criminal Justice Month event that meaningfully engages the community on criminal justice issues and topics. Successful events will typically include student engagement with a local criminal justice agency. One department could be selected as the recipient of this award.

### **Program of the Year**

The intent of this award is to recognize an academic department that successfully showcases a range of National Criminal Justice Month events. Departments that actively engage in several varied National Criminal Justice Month events will be considered. One department could be selected as the recipient of this award.

### **Award criteria for each award:**

1. The person submitting the nomination must be a current member of ACJS.
2. The event(s) must have taken place during the month of March 2026 (National Criminal Justice Month).

### **Nomination requirements:**

A nomination of the same program could be made for each of the three awards, but the same department is eligible to be the recipient of only one of these three awards per year.

**Application Process:**

1. Submit a letter of application describing the National Criminal Justice Month event(s). The narrative of the letter should address the background of the academic department and provide a full description of the event in the context of the award category.
2. Submit any supplementary material to support the application. Examples include pictures, video links, survey results, and letters of support from local criminal justice agencies.

Efforts will be made to highlight the recipients of the awards on the ACJS website as well as in *ACJS today*.