**CASC PROPOSAL TO REVAMP ITS STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Proposed by Christopher Tomlin, CASC Executive Director

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Connecticut Association of Student Councils (CASC) currently recognizes one outstanding student council/ student government member with the Dale Hawley Award.

The Dale Hawley Award is no longer a nationally recognized award; however CASC would like to retain it, while renaming it in honor of a person who contributed to growing Connecticut student leadership.

CASC would also like to create a second award to recognize the students whose contributions often go unrecognized.

According to the bylaws, this group’s approval is required to change the name of the Dale Hawley Award, and create a second award.

**BACKGROUND**

Dr. Dale D. Hawley served as director of the Department of Student Activities for the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) from 1986-1995 until he was forced into disability leave by multiple sclerosis. His successor, Rocco Marano, created the award as a national program in 1995 through the National Association of Student Councils (NASC), a subsidiary of NASSP.

Originally, the award recognized five students per state and had a corporate sponsor that provided several financial awards to cover leadership camp registration fees. When the sponsorship ended after just a few years, the award became a certificate of recognition program where each state received certificates to pass out as they chose fit.

Connecticut, along with most other states, participated in the program at the beginning. However, the award stopped being advertised by NASC in the early 2000’s and has been used minimally in the last 10-15 years with only 3-4 states requesting certificates in any given year. The award, along with all other NASSP awards programs, was paused indefinitely in 2021 pending a brand relaunch in 2024.

The current description of the award used by CASC is: *The Dale Hawley Award recognizes an individual student for both achievement, potential in their student leadership experiences, and development. Dale Hawley’s life was dedicated to youth, service and to the development of student leaders, as a principal and director of the National Association of Student Councils. Voting should be held amongst your council/ government members to decide the student you will be nominating for this Award. This award is presented to one student at the spring convention.*

**PROPOSAL**

CASC wishes to continue to highlight and recognize the amazing work of student leaders in Connecticut through the following two proposed actions.

Proposal #1 - Renaming of the Dale Hawley Award

With the Dale Hawley Award no longer supported through NASC, CASC would like to retain the award and rename it in honor of our first Executive Secretary, Dr. Arthur W. Kaircott, former principal at Glastonbury High School. This renamed award would have the same criteria as it currently has and would recognize one high school student and one middle school student each year.

In 1952 the Connecticut High-School Principals Association appointed Dr. Kairott to make plans for organizing a Connecticut association of student councils. Working with several Connecticut principals and Susan Jennings, a student council member at Glastonbury High School, they met at Hartford High School on April 7 to draft a constitution of what would become the Connecticut Federation of Student Councils (direct precursor to CASC).

The first organized meeting between Connecticut schools to discuss the constitution of the newly formed “Connecticut Federation of Student Councils” was held 10 days later again at Hartford Public High School on April 17, 1952. Finally, the first Executive Board of the Federation was created, the positions for students were President, Vice President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The positions for adults were three faculty members and the Executive Secretary.

Proposal #2 - Creation of a second student award to recognize the unsung heroes

CASC would like to create a second student award recognizing the unsung heroes of student councils/ governments. The award would recognize those students who have positively influenced their student council/ government from behind the scenes with a positive attitude, a willingness to help in whatever capacity necessary, and a commitment to excellence. This award would likewise recognize one high school and one middle school student annually.