

Press Release: Announcing the Inaugural Delbert D. Konnor Award of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Administration. Proposals due April 4, 2025

For Immediate Release

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Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI) Launches the Delbert D. Konnor Award of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Administration to enable outstanding scholarly contributions in Pharmaceutical Administration

South Lyon, MI — The Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI) is proud to announce the establishment of the Delbert D. Konnor Award of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Administration (The Konnor Award). This award, named in honor of the late Delbert (Del) D. Konnor, an accomplished leader and innovator in the field of pharmacy administration, seeks to enable new scholarly work in areas critical to contemporary pharmacy practice.

John D. Grabenstein, PhD, Chair of the PLEI Board of Directors explained: “PLEI is excited to help bring Del Konnor’s vision to life. The Konnor Award will embody the spirit of innovation and leadership that Del championed throughout his professional career. This award will provide invaluable support to an aspiring leader, to make important contributions in pharmacy administration, advancing both pharmacy practice and health outcomes within communities.”

About the Award. The Konnor Award will be presented every two years, beginning in the summer of 2025, to a student pharmacist, recent pharmacy graduate, or academic professional pharmacist who is a member of the Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity. The award is intended to support research in pharmacy administration, defined broadly to include areas such as pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical marketing, pharmacy management, pharmacoeconomics, health outcomes, social-behavioral pharmacy, accounting, and pharmacy law.

John P. Bentley, PhD, Professor of Pharmacy Administration, University of Mississippi, will chair the Selection Committee. He noted: “The Konnor Award represents a great opportunity to foster meaningful research, supporting and advancing the vital role that pharmacy administration plays in the evolving healthcare landscape. I am excited to help launch this award for my professional pharmacy fraternity, Phi Delta Chi, and thank the support from PLEI.”

With a \$5,000 prize, the Konnor Award will enable recipients to initiate new research or expand current research projects, thus leading to significant contributions to the field. Recipients will be selected based on the originality and potential impact of the proposed work, which should aim to advance the science and practice of pharmacy for the benefit of society.

Eligibility and Application Process. The Konnor Award is open to:

- Students enrolled in a PharmD program, or
- Pharmacists in academic programs pursuing graduate degrees, or
- Recent pharmacy graduates, including pharmacy residents and fellows, and

Applicants must be dues-paying or Life Members of Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity in good standing.

Applications for the 2025 award will open on November 15, 2024, with submissions due by April 4, 2025. The selection process will include a review of each applicant's project proposal, which must detail the background, methods, and expected contributions of their research.

The recipient will be announced in June 2025, with research expected to begin in the fall of 2025. Award recipients will have up to four years to complete their research. Award recipients must present their findings to the Phi Delta Chi Grand Council (i.e., a national conclave of collegiate and alumni Brothers), as well as prepare a manuscript for publication.

About Delbert D. Konnor (1938–2022). Delbert D. Konnor was a pioneering figure in pharmacy administration. A Phi Delta Chi alumnus initiated at the Fraternity's Alpha Eta Chapter at Wayne State University, Konnor's career included numerous influential roles, including leadership positions with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the National Association of Retail Druggists (now the National Community Pharmacists Association), and the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA). Del Konnor was instrumental in shaping policy and advancing the field of managed-care pharmacy. His dedication to the profession inspired his generous bequest to the Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity, leading to the creation of this award.

About PLEI. The Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting pharmacy students and professionals in their personal, academic, and leadership development. Through scholarships, leadership programs, and awards like the Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award, and the Konnor Award, PLEI fosters the advancement of the pharmacy profession.

About Phi Delta Chi. Phi Delta Chi is the lifelong home for tens of thousands of pharmacy professionals, dedicated to inspiring brotherhood, leadership, service, and scholarship. Established as a committed Brotherhood in 1883, with innovator Albert B. Prescott as first advisor, Phi Delta Chi fosters a close-knit community where members lead, serve, and grow through each stage in their profession. The Fraternity provides a strong national network, with collegiate and alumni chapters united in a shared mission to advance the pharmacy profession and support one another. Starting with their third meeting in 1883, the first Phi Delta Chi Brothers regularly gave 5-minute impromptu speeches and read scholarly papers to each other. Today, Phi Delta Chi offers multiple programs to develop purpose-driven leaders.

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