The Syed Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence presented by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and was established by Ali-Zaidi, a charter member of PASSHE's board of governors and a strong advocate for the system's universities. The award was inspired by Ali-Zaidi's memories of his grandfather, Mir Wilayat Husain.

The award honors a graduating senior who exemplifies academic excellence and involvement. Fourteen finalists will be chosen to represent each one of the PASSHE institutions and the winner will be chosen from that group. The entire process should be completed online: https://secure.sru.edu/forms/AliZaidiAward

Award Criteria
Faculty members, students and staff are encouraged to nominate students based on the following criteria:

- Graduating senior with outstanding academic performance in the academic major and in other areas of study
- Recognition of scholarship by members of the university faculty
- Participation in extra/co-curricular activities during the undergraduate years
- Quality of the nominee’s essay

Nomination Documents

- Students can nominate themselves.
- An essay, not exceeding two double-spaced pages using 12-point type, describing how Slippery Rock prepared the nominee for a career or graduate/professional school
- Most recent transcript (a copy is acceptable—it does not have to be official)
- Updated vita or résumé
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably from university faculty

Award

- SRU Winner: $250 award, a medallion, recognition at the 2017 Academic Honors Convocation, and nomination to the PASSHE system-wide competition

Previous SRU Award Winners

- Samantha Passarello, Information Systems and Information Technology and a minor in Business Management, 2016
- Aleta Bullock, Health Service Administration and minors in Computer Information Systems and Business Management, 2015
- Rebecca Burcher, Dance and Community Programs for Americans with Disabilities, 2014. Ms. Burcher was also the System-wide winner in 2014.

The nomination documents are due by Friday, December 9, 2016.
Questions can be directed to the Office of the Provost at 724-738-2001.