

Torch Award Committee Report – 2025-26

The members of the committee for 2024-25 were Todd Adams, Valliere Auzenne, Marie Cowart, Leigh Edwards, Kirby Kemper, Maxine Montgonery, Anne Rowe, and Nancy Smilowitz with Jayne Standley and Marilyn Young serving as co-chairs. The Committee sent out a call for nominations in September 2025. Nominations were received and distributed to the committee. The committee met in person and via ZOOM in October 2025 and made award selections, then sent those names to the Senate Steering Committee for confirmation. The Committee also voted to give a special commendation to the FSU Police Dept. in recognition of their outstanding response to the 2025 shooting on the FSU campus. The Senate confirmed the Torch award selections and the commendation. Recipients were notified by letter from the Provost's Office. The Torch Awards recognition dinner was originally scheduled for January 18, 2026, but was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. The Torch Awards dinner was held on March 31, 2026, in the Heritage Museum. Recipients were:

Vires – Ed Burr
Artes – Liz Cohen
Mores – Lee Corso

The Commendation for the FSU Police Dept was as follows:

The Torch Awards Committee, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, hereby presents this special commendation to the FSU Police Department with gratitude for their outstanding response to the April 2025, on-campus shooting event and for their heroic efforts to protect FSU students, faculty, and staff. We commend them for their crisis intervention expertise and their ongoing training in readiness skills that resulted in an immediate and effective response to danger. By multiple FSU police personnel rushing toward the gunfire, lives were saved and the threat to the welfare of our community was quickly ended. We commend their selfless response on this occasion and recognize them for their dedication to ongoing protection of the FSU campus.

Marie Cowart's term on the committee has come to an end and she has asked not to be reappointed. Marie's service to the committee was also recognized at the dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Standley & Marilyn Young, Co-Chairs