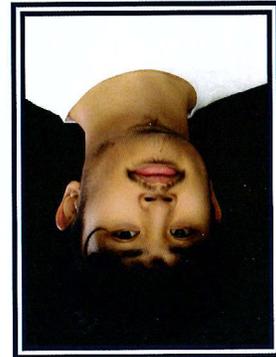


2025 John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award

The John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award recognizes one student in the state who, like Mr. Barnhill, demonstrates innovation in civic engagement and creates foundations that expand or deepen campus community partnerships.

Xypher Pino, Greensboro College



Xypher Pino, a senior majoring in Biology, transformed civic life at Greensboro College.

His path into civic engagement began at Greensboro College as a volunteer for Pride Pantry, where he supported the accessibility and sustainability of the campus food pantry. Motivated by the impact he made, he moved into a leadership role as a Student Hunger Ambassador in the NC Collegiate Hunger Challenge, a statewide initiative to combat student food insecurity.

In addition to his civic leadership work, Pino serves as Vice President of the Student Body, Editor of The Collegian student newspaper, a Biology Tutor, a Supplemental Instruction Assistant, and a Certified Nursing Assistant. He plans to attend medical school and pursue a career serving communities with limited access to healthcare. In his words, "I want to be where people need me."

Pino is described as a leader and advocate who inspires others in his community. He credits his mentors with shaping his understanding of civic engagement and service. Reflecting on his engagement experiences, Pino emphasizes the cumulative impact of seemingly small actions, and importance of finding happiness in creating pathways for others to succeed.

His leadership in the Challenge supported Greensboro College to achieve the Grand Prize for two consecutive years, securing more than \$20,000 to combat food insecurity on campus. These funds supported the establishment of a walk-in food pantry, upgrades to the resident hall kitchen, and the creation of a sustainable funding source for student basic needs.

Pino was later selected to represent Greensboro College in the NC Civic Impact Fellowship through NC Campus Engagement. As part of the fellowship, he founded the Greensboro College Civic Leadership Program, a student-led initiative designed to build civic leadership skills and increase service participation among students.



This award is named in honor of **John Barnhill** and the passion for service he demonstrated while a student at Elon University resulting in him devoting almost 30 hours a week in direct service. He co-founded Elon's Habitat for Humanity chapter in 1989, which today remains one of the most active in the country. In 1990 he created Elon Volunteers! (EVI), a student community service group that today involves over 100 student leaders who coordinate a wide variety of co-curricular service opportunities at Elon University. After graduating, he became Elon's first paid staff member, coordinating volunteer service and spearheading the creation of the endowed, nationally recognized Kernode Center for Civic Life. Barnhill helped form NC Campus Volunteers (NCCV), and when NCCV transitioned to NC Campus Compact in 2002, he served as executive director until 2006.

