Excellence in Teaching Award

Purpose: This award is to encourage and reward excellence, innovation, and effectiveness in teaching. The recipient of this award will be the university’s nominee for the Regent’s Teaching Excellence Award and will be the December commencement speaker.

Overview: The Excellence in Teaching Award is presented by Georgia College to one individual each year. An individual is eligible for nomination at the college only if they are a full-time faculty member with at least three years of teaching experience at Georgia College prior to the 2014-15 academic year. To be eligible for this university-wide award individuals must be nominated by a faculty member, department chair, or dean at the college level. College committees will select their Excellence in Teaching award recipient and forward to the university selection committee.

For a previous recipient to be nominated, at least five years must have passed since the faculty member’s most recent recognition with this award. Self-nominations and nominations from students will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the nominee to ensure completion of the application portfolio.

For their meritorious work award recipients will receive $1000 in their base salary effective the following fiscal year.

The award is not necessarily made annually.

Criteria: The Georgia College award recipient becomes the university nominee for the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award; therefore, the criteria and required documentation are guided by BOR requirements. This award recognizes individuals who have achieved teaching excellence as demonstrated through persuasive, direct documentation in a variety of the following areas, to be weighted in the order they are listed:

1. Evidence of superlative teaching that has enhanced student learning.
2. Developed and implemented creative solutions and innovative pedagogy that reflect current literature, practice, trends, and issues in their discipline and in higher education and that have had a demonstrable impact on student learning.
3. Engaged in creative and documented assessment practices appropriate to their discipline that go beyond required institutional means of assessment and that have been used to refine teaching methods.

4. Demonstrated commitment to and record of achieving student success through activities that transcend the classroom, that include but are not limited to advising student organizations related to one’s discipline, mentoring students, directing and/or facilitating service learning projects, facilitating living/learning communities, coordinating special programs for students, etc.

**Required Documentation:** Nomination portfolios for this award are limited to 25 pages (in a font no smaller than 12 point, single line spacing, 1 inch margins including top and bottom), excluding the application form and dean/director letter of support. Each portfolio must include the following information:

1. **Faculty Excellence Application Form.**
2. **Nomination letter.**
   a. Letter from nominator highlighting noteworthy teaching achievements and explaining how the candidate meets the criteria.
   b. Maximum of two pages.
3. **Reflective statement.**
   a. A reflective statement by the candidate about their philosophy of teaching and learning that addresses the award criteria.
   b. Candidates should include a description of innovative techniques and pedagogies that address the criteria and solve specific teaching and learning issues.
   c. Maximum of four pages.
4. **Peer letters of support.**
   a. Two letters from colleagues familiar with the candidate’s teaching and how it meets the criteria for the award.
   b. The letters should address how the candidate’s teaching has contributed to student learning.
   c. Maximum of two pages per letter.
5. **Chair letter of support.**
   a. Letter describing how the faculty member uses student and peer feedback, innovation and/or technology in enhancing student learning.
   b. Maximum of two pages.
6. **Student evaluation responses.**
   a. Student responses to the question “This instructor is an effective teacher” on the student opinion survey form for a minimum of four semesters not
including summer of all courses taught, during the previous two years (AY 2012-13 & 2013-14).

b. The applicant can select three additional questions from the student opinion survey form for a minimum of four semesters not including summer of all courses taught, during the previous two years (AY 2012-13 & 2013-14).
   i. Maximum of three pages for student responses.

c. Summary of student responses and how the applicant used responses to enhance student learning.
   i. Maximum of two pages for summary.

7. Impact of teaching narrative.
   a. Compelling documented evidence of the impact of one’s teaching on student learning. The candidate should clarify how these data have informed teaching practices. This documentation shall represent a wide-array of materials, which might include but is not limited to:
      i. description of creative assessment methods and their results with regard to student learning;
      ii. list of achievements of past and present students;
      iii. student performance on standardized national instruments, results of interviews and formative surveys;
      iv. course materials used to demonstrate innovative approaches to highlight student learning outcomes achieved.

   b. Maximum of eight pages.

8. Dean/Director letter of support.
   a. Letter describing the faculty’s overall teaching excellence.
   b. This letter to be added following the college selection process.
   c. Maximum of two pages.

Portfolio will have the following sections and headings, please do not add sections.

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<td>Letter of support from Dean/Director*</td>
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**Total Maximum Pages** 25

Required formatting: No font smaller than 12 point, single line spacing, 1 inch margins including top and bottom.

*All documents must be combined into a single pdf file and submitted electronically.*

Portfolios that exceed 25 pages or do not meet formatting requirements will not be accepted.

*Letter of support from Dean/Director is required only after college selection is made and the candidate is moving to the university level*

**Due Dates:**

Nominations to College Dean by: February 13, 2015  
Nominees notified by College Dean by: February 16, 2015  
College selection received by Dr. Steve Jones by: March 13, 2015  
University selection by: April 8, 2015