

Award for Distinguished Service to the Community

Purpose & Overview

The Distinguished Service to the Community Award recognizes faculty members within the American University School of Education (SOE) who have displayed exemplary commitment to serving the community through their teaching, research, and active engagement. This award highlights faculty who demonstrate teaching excellence and have generated a **measurable positive impact** on the broader community through service-oriented endeavors. Recipients embody the SOE core values of Excellence, Equity, Antiracism and Social Justice, Diversity and Inclusion, Collaboration, and Innovation.

Eligibility

- The award is limited to American University School of Education faculty.
- Awards are presented each spring to honor various areas of faculty work.
- A call for nominations (including self-nominations) is issued to all faculty in January.
- Past recipients are eligible for a second award only after a five-year period has elapsed.

Criteria

The Appointed Committee will evaluate nominees based on the following impact-focused criteria:

- **Demonstration of Excellence:** Consistently demonstrates excellence in teaching, research, and service that produces documented community outcomes. Evidence includes project samples with clearly defined results and community impact.
- **Commitment to Equity:** Actively works toward closing achievement gaps and advocating for marginalized communities. This includes implementing inclusive practices that result in tangible shifts in community equity.
- **Modelling of Antiracism and Social Justice Efforts:** Maintains a proven track record of activism and advocacy aimed at dismantling systemic inequalities within the education sector and the broader community.
- **Implementation of Diversity and Inclusion:** Fosters cultural understanding and supports underrepresented groups through research and service initiatives that create more inclusive environments.
- **Leveraging Collaboration:** Effectively partners with community organizations, schools, and local nonprofits to solve pressing educational challenges.

- **Active Use of Innovation:** Develops innovative programs or cutting-edge research projects that specifically improve community engagement and educational outcomes.

Nomination Materials

The nominee should prepare a succinct electronic packet (3–5 pages) including:

- **Community Impact Statement:** A detailed narrative describing specific achievements and partnerships that have benefited the community beyond the standard scope of the nominee's SOE role. This should highlight the scale and sustainability of the community impact.
- **Letter of Support:** A letter from a community partner, colleague, or student attesting to the nature, significance, and long-term impact of the nominee's service work.

Award Presentation

The recipient will be recognized publicly and receive a certificate of achievement. Awardees may also receive additional professional development opportunities to support their continued excellence in community-centered teaching.

Award for Outstanding Teaching Excellence

Purpose & Overview

The American University School of Education Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching Excellence recognizes faculty members who have exhibited exemplary teaching practices that significantly contribute to the **academic and professional growth** of their students. This award celebrates educators who foster inclusive, dynamic learning environments and uphold the highest standards of pedagogical innovation.

Eligibility

- The award is limited to American University School of Education faculty.
- Awards are presented each spring to honor various areas of faculty work.
- A call for nominations (including self-nominations) is issued to all faculty in January.
- Past recipients are eligible for a second award only after a five-year period has elapsed.

Criteria

The Appointed Committee will evaluate nominees based on the following pedagogical impact criteria:

- **Demonstration of Excellence:** Shows mastery of subject matter and dedication to student learning outcomes. Impact is evidenced by consistently positive evaluations and the use of diverse instructional methods.
- **Commitment to Equity:** Implements inclusive teaching strategies that accommodate diverse learning styles and address systemic barriers to academic success.
- **Modelling of Antiracism and Social Justice Efforts:** Integrates race, equity, and justice into the curriculum and engages students in action-oriented initiatives to address societal injustices.
- **Implementation of Diversity and Inclusion:** Incorporates diverse voices into course materials and creates a classroom culture where all students feel valued and respected.
- **Leveraging Collaboration:** Encourages interdisciplinary exchange and fosters a supportive environment that promotes teamwork among peers and students.
- **Active Use of Innovation:** Employs creative technologies and new teaching methods to enhance student engagement and adapt to evolving educational needs.

Nomination Materials

The nominee should prepare a succinct electronic packet (3–5 pages) including:

- **Pedagogical Impact Statement:** A narrative describing how the nominee's teaching methods and student collaborations have resulted in significant student development or pedagogical advancement. This should include specific examples of how the nominee's classroom practices align with SOE core values.
- **Letter of Support for Teaching:** A letter from a student or colleague attesting to the quality, innovation, and impact of the nominee's instructional work.

Award Presentation

The recipient will be recognized publicly and receive a certificate of achievement. Awardees may receive additional professional development opportunities or recognition to support their continued leadership in pedagogical innovation.