

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.